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Saipan Tribune

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POLL RESULTS

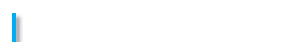
Is the CNMI government doing enough to cut down on unnecessary spending?



Yes-12



No-96



No opinion-2

Sunday, March 01, 2009

153 without a government budget for FY 2009
DAYS

INSIDE

Legislative Duel

President Barack Obama challenged the nation's vested interests to a legislative duel Saturday, saying he will fight to change health care, energy and education in dramatic ways that will upset the status quo.

Nation...Page 15



Paul Harvey, 90

Paul Harvey, the news commentator and talk-radio pioneer whose staccato style made him one of the nation's most familiar voices, died Saturday in Arizona, according to ABC Radio Networks. He was 90.

Life & Style...Page 19

Woman in document fraud gets 90-day jail term. **PAGE 2**
DOC taps inmates for beautification project at beach sides. **PAGE 5**

Taotao Tano: Don't delay federalization

22 comments ahead of March 17 deadline

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Taotao Tano CNMI Association Inc., a local advocacy group, is so far the only entity that opposes any request for a 180-day delay in the



Cruz

June 1 transition to federal immigration system.

Gregorio Cruz Jr., president of Taotao Tano, cited national security and border control and the "failures" of

See **TAOTAO** on Page 4

Napolitano assures Kilili DHS is listening

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano has told Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Camacho Sablan that her department is receptive to his request for a 180-day delay in the federalization of immigration.

See **NAPOLITANO** on Page 4



VISION CHECK

Ruel Balboa, left, of Hardt Eye Clinic, checks the vision of a patient yesterday at the free health screening organized by the Philippine Consulate General and volunteer doctors and nurses. See **story** on Page 3

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Thousands of social security cards issued on Saipan sold to illegal immigrants in US

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Thousands of social security account cards issued on Saipan to Chinese nationals were sold to illegal immigrants in the United States within a five-year period, according to a 156-page criminal complaint filed on Feb. 24 in the U.S.

District Court of Illinois against 19 persons engaged in the fraudulent scheme in Chicago.

Between Jan. 1, 2003, and Dec. 10, 2008, approximately 16,666 Illinois driver's licenses and identification cards were issued to individuals using social security numbers with a "586" prefix.

See **THOUSANDS** on Page 4

US govt files new lawsuit vs DPS range master Ogumoro

Prosecutor says defendant fraudulently transferred his land

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. government has filed a new lawsuit in federal court against Department of Public Safety's range master Ambrosio T. Ogumoro for alleged

fraudulent transfer of his piece of land to his daughter despite his failure to pay \$3.7 million in damages over a fishing boat oil spill.

The U.S. government, through assistant U.S. attorney Jessica F. Cruz, asked

See **US** on Page 4

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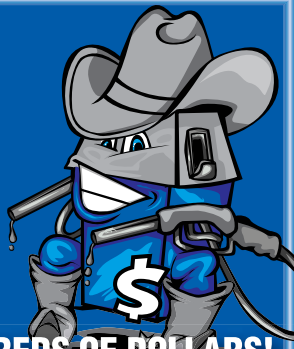


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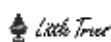
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Local

Woman in document fraud gets 90-day jail term

One of the eight persons arrested last year for alleged involvement in bribery and a conspiracy to forge documents submitted at the Department of Labor has entered a guilty plea and was ordered to spend 90 days in prison.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Teresita Deleon Guerrero to one year imprisonment, all suspended except for 90 days, for one count of document fraud.

The 51-year-old Deleon Guerrero was given credit for the time she already spent in jail. She is not eligible for parole, according to Wiseman.

The judge ordered the de-

fendant to start serving the jail term at the Department of Corrections on March 25, 2009, at 8am. She will be released on June 23, 2009, at 8am.

Wiseman required Deleon Guerrero to write a letter of apology to the Division of Immigration, Labor, and the CNMI citizens, to be published in local newspapers.

Deleon Guerrero was directed to pay restitution to the victim(s) in an amount to be determined by the court based on recommendation by the Office of Adult Probation.

The defendant was ordered to pay a \$500 fine, \$25 court assessment fee, plus probation fee.

Wiseman set a review hearing

for Sept. 16, 2009, to determine if Deleon Guerrero complies with all the terms and conditions of the sentence.

In April 2008, the Attorney General's Office charged Deleon Guerrero with two counts of document fraud, and three counts of conspiracy to commit document fraud.

Deleon Guerrero and counsel, Edward Arriola Sr., entered a plea agreement with the government represented by assistant attorney General Joseph J. Przyuski.

Last Wednesday, Deleon Guerrero pleaded guilty to one count of document fraud, a misdemeanor offense. The government agreed to dismiss the remaining charges.

According to the factual ba-

See WOMAN on Page 4

Teenager arrested for sexual abuse of a minor

An 18-year-old man was arrested on Thursday for allegedly having sex with his 13-year-old girlfriend at a beach on Tinian.

The suspect was arrested for sexual abuse of a minor. A \$25,000 cash bail was initially imposed for his temporary liberty. *Saipan Tribune* opted to withhold his identity until formal charges are filed against him.

The suspect was brought be-

fore Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos for a bail hearing yesterday afternoon.

A Tinian police detective stated in her report that police officers who were conducting a routine check at Tachogna Beach last Friday midnight, Feb. 20, they saw a car parked near the container area.

When the officers checked the car they saw the suspect

and the minor girl, both sitting in the backseat.

The suspect was not wearing a shirt and his belt buckle was open. The suspect admitted they were kissing, but denied having sex.

The girl, however, told police that the suspect was her boyfriend for two weeks already. She admitted that it was the third occasion they had sex. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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455 workers avail of free health screening

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 455 Filipino contract workers availed of the free health screening yesterday provided by volunteer doctors and nurses, as well as staff of the Philippine Consulate General and affiliated offices at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

This is the highest turnout for the quarterly health screening in recent years, considering that the average number of workers who came for the free quarterly check-ups is placed at 390.

Philippine labor attaché Joan Lourdes Lavilla said the heightened awareness among Filipino workers about the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and the fact the services offered are free contributed to the high turnout.

“Health services in the CNMI are expensive and given the current economic situation, a lot of them realized it’s better to avail of free health screening,” Lavilla said.

She said another factor is the fact that this is the first health screening for the year.

“This is a big success because of the spirit of ‘bayanihan,’” she added.

This quarter's free health screening also included for the first time a lecture about maintaining a healthy lifestyle and preventing diabetes, among other things, provided by Dr. Elizabeth Hernandez of the Commonwealth Health Center. Dr. Gabriel de Guzman of Pacific Medical Center, a longtime volunteer doctor for the free health

screening, also assisted in the program yesterday.

Of the 455 participants, 374 underwent blood pressure and blood sugar check provided by at least 12 volunteer nurses from the Commonwealth Health Center led by Susan de Veyra and Ernie Molina.

"I've been a volunteer nurse for this program since 2000 because I want to help my fellow Filipinos and others in the community," she said.

Nieves Nekaifes, one of the local nurses at CHC, joined the Filipino nurses for the volunteer program for the first time.

"It's an experience for me," she said, adding that she will be volunteering again on the following health screening next quarter.

The other 81 underwent vision checkup courtesy of five volunteers from Hardt Eye Clinic led by Ruel Balboa.

Ruel Bince, 53, underwent a blood sugar and blood pressure check because of a history of high blood pressure. "I want to know if I'm making progress about my health," said Bince, who has been working on Saipan for 20 years as an aircon technician.

Manuel Domingo, 44, has been working on Saipan as a janitorial and ground maintenance supervisor for 19 years, but this is only his first time to avail of the free health screening.


"I know I am growing old so I have to be more alert about my health," he said.

Besides the health screening, the Philippine Consulate




HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Manuel Domingo, left, undergoes blood sugar check courtesy of volunteer nurse Ernie Molina, right, of the Commonwealth Health Center during a free health screening yesterday participated by 455 Filipino workers and organized by the Philippine Consulate General in the CNMI. Also in the photo is volunteer nurse Susan de Veyra.





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NAPOLITANO

From Page 1

"Secretary Napolitano told me that she is aware of the issues that I discussed in my letter to her," Sablan said.

Napolitano met with Sablan and seven other members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus at the U.S. Capitol Wednesday. The primary topic of discussion was immigration.

"The Hispanic Caucus is a very influential group on Capitol Hill and has been a forefront in the area of immigration," Sablan said. "This is why I was glad my application for membership was so quickly accepted, because of the importance of immigration issues to the people of the Northern Marianas.

"When the Hispanic Caucus speaks, people listen."

U.S. Census Bureau records show

that as of 2006, there are 44.3 million persons of Hispanic heritage in the U.S., 14.3 percent of the total population.

Sablan became the Caucus's 25th member on Feb. 12, 2009.

Rep. Nydia Velázquez, CHC chair, welcomed Sablan in a statement that is published on CHC's Web site.

"I am proud to see our continued growth and welcome Congressman Sablan. Together we will work to create

Congressional Hispanic Caucus members met with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano at the Capitol on Feb. 25. At back: Representatives Henry Cuellar (D-Texas), Ed Pastor (D-AZ), Gregorio "Kilili" Camacho Sablan (I-CNMI), Grace F. Napolitano (D-CA), Xavier Becerra (D-CA), Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL) and Ben R. Luján (D-NM). Seated: Chair Nydia Velázquez and Secretary Napolitano. All are members of the Democratic Caucus. (photo: Miguel Ayala, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus) CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



job opportunities, build strong communities and provide a solid foundation for hard-working Hispanic families in the Northern Marianas and throughout the United States."

On Feb. 10, 2009, Sablan wrote a six-page letter to Napolitano detailing the three reasons why DHS should delay federalization: 1) the lack of sufficient funding, 2) delays in the issuance of regulations, and 3) the potential for disruption of families.

At Wednesday's meeting, Sablan reiterated to Napolitano his reasons for the 180-day delay.

"The delay provides more opportunity for DHS to prepare for the orderly phase-in of federal immigration laws in the CNMI. We want DHS to be successful because the lives and the future of thousands of people in the Northern Marianas are at stake here," Sablan added.

Under U.S. Public Law 110-229, or the Consolidated Natural Resources

Act, which President Bush signed on May 8, 2008, Napolitano has the power to delay the extension of U.S. federal law on immigration to the CNMI from June 1, 2009 to Nov. 27, 2009.

One purpose of the law was to regulate U.S. border controls in the interest of national security. But the law also specifies congressional intent to avoid the adverse economic effects of federalization and instead expand the potential for future economic growth in the Marianas. (PR)

WOMAN

From Page 2

sis of the agreement, on March 26, 2008, the defendant fabricated a false job certification for Raquel Ramas, also known as Anna Marie Dela Cruz Yambao, in the CNMI to circumvent the labor and immigration laws of the Commonwealth.

Court records show that Deleon Guerrero used to be president/secretary of ALT International Corp. Commerce records indicate that ALT was then authorized to conduct businesses that include document handling.

Among the eight persons arrested in April 2008 in connection with the case were two then Labor employees. (Ferdie de la Torre)

THOUSANDS

From Page 1

Social security cards with a "586" prefix are assigned in Saipan, Guam, American Samoa, and the Philippines.

But a "large portion" of these social security cards were legally obtained through legal means by Chinese nationals temporarily working on Saipan, according to the criminal complaint filed by David A. Patch, special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In contrast, between 1970 and 2002 or prior to the alleged operation of the crime group, only about 787 Illinois driver's licenses and identification cards were issued using social security account numbers with the prefix "586."

Saipan was home to 15,000 foreign garment workers mostly from China during the garment indus-

try's peak years.

But between 2003 and 2008 when the selling of Saipan-issued social security account cards were happening in Illinois as indicated in the criminal complaint, Saipan garment factories were beginning to close one after another due to the lifting of world trade rules. As a result, garment factories on Saipan moved to countries such as China and Vietnam where the minimum wage is much cheaper than the CNMI's.

The U.S. Social Security Administration, which has an office on Saipan at the MH-II Building in the Garapan/Puerto Rico area, issues social security account cards to U.S. citizens and foreign workers.

Indictments

A total of 19 people, including two former Illinois Secretary of State's office employees, were indicted on Feb.

24 for running the alleged phony ID scheme in the Chinatown neighborhood on the Near South Side of Illinois.

Those indicted were involved in selling "identity sets" to predominantly Chinese, Korean and Indonesian nationals who have been illegally smuggled into the U.S.

Typically, customers will pay between \$1,200 and \$3,500 to purchase an identity set.

On page 7 of the 156-page criminal complaint filed by the FBI, a statement reads: "Further investigation of the social security account cards utilized by this criminal enterprise has revealed that a large portion of the cards were originally obtained through legal means by Chinese nationals temporarily working in Saipan."

"Upon the return of these temporary workers to the Peoples Republic of China or while still in Saipan, their issued social security account cards were

collected and transported in bulk to the U.S. for eventual use by this criminal enterprise," said the criminal complaint.

Given that the original holders of these social security account cards remain in China, the illegitimate use of such cards and their associated numbers is feasible within the U.S. without problems arising from having more than one person using a given social security account number.

As part of the criminal enterprises' fraudulent document operation, manufacturers alter either counterfeit or authentic Peoples Republic of China passports to contain a customer's photographs, as well as alter the passport's biographical page in order to match the identity of an authentic social security account card of a third party.

After preparation of such documents, related brokers and couriers

assist customer with using these documents to fraudulently obtain Illinois driver's licenses or identification cards from various Illinois driver services facilities.

The investigation by the Chicago Division of the FBI and the Chicago Police Department started in late 2005.

Throughout the investigation, the Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General has been consulted on numerous occasions.

The defendants include two former Secretary of State's office workers. They allegedly assisted non-English-speaking customers pass the English version of the driver's license exam by providing an alpha-numeric series of rules to memorize answers.

If customers failed or did not want to take the road test, they could pay more to defendants who bribed the Secretary of State employees to alter or forge test results.

US

From Page 1

the U.S. District Court for the NMI to void the fraudulent conveyance of Ogumoro's interest in the subject lot located in Capital Hill.

The U.S. government requested the court to issue an order requiring Ogumoro to immediately satisfy his civil monetary obligations.

The plaintiff asked the court to enjoin Ogumoro's daughter, Leiana, from disposing or diminishing the subject land.

Cruz also moved the court to seize

the property and put into public auction so the proceeds will be paid towards Ogumoro's debt to the U.S.

Saipan Tribune tried to contact Ogumoro yesterday to get his side, but he was not available. As of press time, he didn't return message from Saipan Tribune seeking comment.

Cruz stated in the complaint that in June 2004, Ogumoro was involved in the discharge of oil into the navigable waters and adjoining shorelines of the CNMI and the U.S.

The prosecutor said the defendant failed to take actions as required by officials with respect to oil spill removal

activities.

"As a result, the U.S. incurred costs and damages to remove the oil spill," she said.

In May 2006, the U.S. government, on behalf of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, filed a lawsuit against Ogumoro and two others to recover the oil spill clean-up costs.

Ogumoro and co-defendants failed to defend the case. As a result, the court issued a default judgment in December 2006, finding the defendants jointly liable to pay \$3.4 million plus interest.

Cruz said the default judgment created a lien in favor of the U.S. govern-

ment on all of Ogumoro's properties.

Cruz said during a deposition in August 2008, Ogumoro admitted that he transferred his Capital Hill lot to his daughter, Leiana, as a gift.

Cruz said that last January the U.S. government sent a demand letter to Ogumoro, with a copy to Leiana, requesting payment of the civil judgment in full or acceptable alternative payment arrangements.

The government lawyer said Ogumoro declared he is not able to pay the civil judgment in full.

"To date, the parties have been unable to agree on alternative payment

arrangements," Cruz said.

As of Feb. 16, 2009, the U.S. government has collected \$3,047.94 from Ogumoro via offset of his military retirement by the Federal Treasury Offset Program.

Cruz said the current balance of Ogumoro's civil debt is \$3,782,554.65.

Cruz said Ogumoro conveyed his land to his daughter in Nov. 2006 to "hinder, delay, or defraud the U.S. in its efforts to collect on the civil judgment."

The fishing boat, F/V *Mwaali Saat*, reportedly owned by Ogumoro and his brother, sank within the Tanapag Harbor in June 2004.

TAOTAO

From Page 1

past and present elected leaders to secure a high standard of living for indigenous residents for opposing any delay.

Twenty-two entities have so far commented on the interim final rules on the establishment of U.S. ports of entry in the CNMI and the implementation of a Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program ahead of the March 17 deadline for public comments.

Most of the comments want the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to delay by 180 days the implementation of federalization due to projected severe negative impact on the already strained economy and foreign labor, and insufficient time, funding, manpower and other resources to put the

local system under federal control.

They warn that excluding Chinese and Russian tourists from the list of countries exempt from the U.S. visa requirement will result in \$339 million in lost revenues for the CNMI annually.

But Cruz said national security and border control is a priority for the federal government.

"The nuclear threats of both North Korea and Iran are a threat to humanity; therefore we must prioritize national security measures..." he said.

In his second comment, Cruz said, "We are opposed to such request to further delay the implementation simply for...one, national security and border control priorities. Two, failures of our past and present veteran elected leaders of our homeland to secure a high standard of living for all U.S. local indigenous citizens and residents of the

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a U.S. territory."

Human rights advocate Wendy Doromal, in a response to a Saipan Tribune inquiry, said she would not ask for a delay in the federalization.

She, however, said if the regulations are not completed and published within time limits, if personnel are not hired and trained, if offices and equipment are not ready, and systems are not in place, then of course, a delay will happen.

"I do not see how a delay will benefit the guest workers or people of the CNMI," she said, adding that the cash-strapped CNMI government fought the takeover of federal immigration law for over a decade, spending an estimated \$11 million to hire lobbyist Jack Abramoff to successfully scheme with members of the U.S. Congress to block

reform legislation.

She also cited the Fitial administration's lawsuit against the federal government to block federalization.

"All of these actions were or are delay tactics," she added.

Doromal said these delays have not just resulted in a tremendous financial cost to taxpayers, but also resulted in a huge human cost.

"The delays have allowed the local system to continue, which has resulted in never-ending labor and human rights abuses that have caused unjust damage and pain to innocent foreign workers and their families. These are evidenced by the many labor, EEOC, NLRB, criminal and civil cases that has been filed by foreign workers, by the \$6.1 million in unpaid judgments, and most recently by the class action suit filed against the CNMI Department of La-

bor. It is time to put an end to the worst guest worker program ever allowed to flourish on U.S. soil since the time of slavery," she added.

Cruz said it is high time that the federal government takes over local labor and immigration, saying for "25 years, no elected official...had lifted a finger to correct a corrupt and politicized immigration and labor system in our homeland..."

"It is with such embarrassment that our leaders are now requesting further delay in the implementation of federal immigration prioritizing tourism and economy as an excuse," he said.

The Fitial administration, Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan, the CNMI Legislature, businesses, and other entities in the CNMI sought for a 180-day delay in the transition to a federal system.

DOC taps inmates for beautification project at beach sites

The Department of Corrections has tapped eight inmates to conduct community beautification projects at the beach sites on Saipan.

Under the supervision of DOC officers, the inmates have

been trimming the grass, picking up the trash, and raking the leaves along the beach sides.

DOC Officer Arnold Seman told *Saipan Tribune* that the department started the beautification project for the prisoners to give

back community services and also part of their rehabilitation.

"They're going out and sharing their time doing something to benefit the public," Seman said.

A couple of weeks ago, the inmates completed a weeklong

clean up at Obyan Beach.

"When people go back there now (at Obyan Beach) to have picnics on weekends, it's very clean. We did a lot of bush cutting. We widened the road by the park area," he said.

From Obyan Beach, the inmates conducted the cleanup from the beach sides of Chalan Kanoa all the way up to Susupe. Their final target is Micro Beach.

Over the last few months,

DOC also utilized inmates to paint the school bus stops on the island. But vandals spray-painted many newly repainted bus stops with the word Xeno-cide and other words. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Busan travel agents tour Saipan and Rota

Despite a tight schedule of only three days, a recent familiarization tour group from Busan, Korea managed to pack in the sights of both Saipan and Rota during their visit last week.

The 16-member entourage was comprised of 12 tour agents and one representative each from newspaper *Busan Ilbo*, Saipan World Resort Korea office, Asiana Airlines, and the Marianas Visitors Authority Korea office.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio and industry partners hosted the tour group at a welcoming dinner provided by Pacific Islands Club on their first day in the Northern Mariana Islands.

"This FAM tour was timely, as our MVA Korea office and Asiana Airlines are hosting an instructional road show on March 3-4 in the Young-nam region where these agents are

from, specifically in the cities of Daegu and Busan," said Tenorio. "We anticipate the road show to be attended by about 100 travel agents in Daegu and 150 travel agents in Busan."

On the day of their arrival (Feb. 19), the Busan fam tour group wasted no time inspecting the accommodation and facilities of Hyatt Regency Saipan, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Mariana Resort, Aqua Resort Club, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The fam tour spent Friday (Feb. 20) on Rota, where they inspected Rota Resort & Country Club. Upon their return to Saipan on Saturday (Feb. 21), they visited Managaha Island, inspected Fiesta Resort & Spa, enjoyed the water park and accommodations of Saipan World Resort, and spent an evening shopping at DFS Galleria in downtown Garapan. Although the tight



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Travel agents and other members of a familiarization tour from Busan, Korea take a break from their busy schedule for a group photo on Feb. 19, 2009, at Laolao Bay Golf Resort on Saipan. The group visited Saipan and Rota from Feb. 19 to 22, to learn more about the tropical Northern Mariana Islands.

schedule did not allow the group to visit Tinian before their departure early Sunday (Feb. 22), MVA gave each group member a gift of Tinian *donne sali* (indigenous hot pepper) paste from Tinian Hot Pepper Festival held earlier this month.

Asiana Airlines sponsored the group's airfare between Busan and Saipan. The FAM tour was also supported by Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Rota Resort & Country Club and Saipan World Resort, providing ac-

commodation and meals; Mariana Resort and Fiesta Resort & Spa, providing lunch; and DFS Galleria, providing discount shopping cards. Mode Tour and Rota Resort & Country Club also sponsored 50 percent of the tour's airfare to Rota.

The participating tour companies were Daekun Tour, Reim Tour, Mode Tour, Ok Tour, Se-jung Tour, Hana Tour, Lotte Tour, Redcap Tour, Taehwa World Tour, Woori Tour, Tour Busan, and Nasa Tour. *(PR)*

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CEC: Runoff most likely to take place

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The elections in November this year will likely be followed by a runoff as currently more than three candidates are expected to run for governor, according to the Commonwealth Election Commission.

"We're expecting more than three gubernatorial and lieutenant governor candidates... and that's why we're ready to do the runoff," CEC chair Frances Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* Friday.

The runoff was discussed during its last meeting where commissioners acknowledged the need to prepare early.

At present, four individuals have already announced

their candidacies. They include the incumbent, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who has yet to name a running mate under the Covenant banner; Rep. Heinz Hofschneider and running mate House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, Republican; former governor Juan N. Babauta with Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Republican; and Independent candidates Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero and Ramon "Kumoi" Guerrero.

Last Thursday, former lieutenant governor Rep. Diego Benavente officially backed out from the race.

The Democratic Party, meanwhile, admitted that it will not be fielding any candidate for the highest post.

The CNMI Constitution dic-

tates that a runoff must be conducted if there are more than two candidates for governor.

The board chairwoman said that primaries within the parties will help decide for the run-off election for the CNMI.

"Hopefully the primaries would kick in. It's when we have mavericks that run under the Republican, Covenant, Democrat, and independent candidates [that necessitates the holding of a runoff election]," she said.

Citing previous election results, Sablan believes that more voters will participate in the general election this year.

"It's always our expectations...because these candidates will check on their respective supporters," she said.

New executive director next month

Frances Sablan said the agency expects to name a new executive director next month to help them prepare for the upcoming general elections.

During its last board meeting, she disclosed that the board had refined and finalized the details of the qualifications and requirements of the candidate for the position.

The agency will run the job announcement in two weeks' time and the board hopes to select the best candidate in its next assembly.

NMI Delegate to U.S. Congress Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan was the former executive director of the commission for over 10 years.

The chairwoman admitted that in the absence of qualifications set for the position, the board had decided to establish the standard that will determine the qualified applicant.

"In the absence of qualifications because nobody has a copy of it...we have to come up with one and so when we announce the vacancy, the clear standard is set," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"By March, we're hoping to name a new executive director,"

she said.

Sablan said among the minimum requirements for the candidate include the college degree, management skills, and related work experience.

"We can say that the requirements set are very basic and we just want the individual to have knowledge on the laws especially the special election law," she said.

The board is offering a \$48,000 starting salary for the executive director based on qualifications and requirements.

3 security guards at schools file lawsuit

Three security guards assigned at schools have filed a lawsuit in federal court against a security agency for allegedly refusing to pay them regular time and overtime, and conducting illegal deductions.

Jessie Z. Vasquez, Nestor B. Dalo, and Rogelio E. Gallega sued the Triple K Corp. that owns Global Security Agency for violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, and breach of contract.

Vasquez, Dalo, and Gallega asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order Triple K pay them the unpaid regular time, overtime pay, damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Saipan Tribune contacted the Global Security Agency yesterday to get their side, but the manager refused to comment.

Attorney Bruce Berline, counsel for plaintiffs, stated in the complaint that in 2006, Triple K hired the three to work as security guards.

Vasquez worked until September 2008, while Dalo until January 2009. Gallega was still employed with Triple K as of the filing of the lawsuit last week.

Berline said the three worked as security guards primarily at the various schools located on Saipan, but also provided security services to other places as well.

The lawyer said the contract executed between Triple K and each security guard provided for payment of wages at a rate of \$3.05 per hour.

FLSA requires employers to pay a federal minimum wage of \$3.55 per hour beginning July 25, 2007. Starting May 26, 2008, the federal minimum wage was \$4.05 an hour.

Berline said his clients were required to pay for certain fees related to the yearly renewal of their employment application/contract such as fees for entry permit processing, job vacancy announcements, bonding, and worker's compensation insurance.

Berline said the security guards were also required to pay for their physical examination and medical certification required for their employment.

He said the security guards have not been properly compensated for their regular time or overtime. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

New facility ready for MHS students

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new nine-classroom building is expected to open soon at Marianas High School compound following completion of the project this week.

MHS principal Karen Borja yesterday said that facility will be ready for occupancy in the next two weeks after the completion of electrical connections Wednesday.

The new facility is the replacement for the old dilapidated Building J, which the students abandoned during the opening of school year due to its worst condition.

"We're very happy that electricity was finally switched on last Wednesday and we're expecting to get next week our certificate of occupancy so we can move in," she told *Saipan Tribune* Friday.

The school was supposed to use the facility last school opening but due to construction delay, it was postponed.

Borja said the new class-

rooms will house three special education classes, cooperative education, and five classes for freshmen students.

She estimated that about 225 students will be housed at the new wing in a daily basis.

"These students are currently holding classes in our Building H and we were forced to use our conference room and other vacant spaces. We're hoping to relocate them in next two weeks," she said.

The funding for the new building was sourced from a community development block grant approved by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. which appropriated \$900,000 including collateral equipment for the facility.

The construction and renovation of the old Building J was delayed for many years due to funding concerns of public school system.

It was supposed to be funded under the compact-impact fund which has been reprogrammed by the administration to other purposes.




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Booth competition highlights MHS cultural day

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The rain did not stop Marianas High School from holding its 34th Annual Cultural Day, which it celebrated along with students from Japan's Seisa Gakuen/Aoba School last Friday.

MHS principal Karen Borja, in her message, said for many years its students have had the opportunity to create and experience strong bonds of cultural exchange between two international schools.

"This exchange program has inspired our students to share international peace and goodwill within our school community," she said.

Yesterday's celebration was highlighted by the traditional booth competition for each grade level utilizing natural materials.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Members of Marianas High School's Chuukese Girls show the crowd what they've got with their dance performances Friday at the 2009 MHS Cultural Day celebrations.

For the freshman class, the group wowed the crowd with their presentation of a Chuukese-inspired booth decorated by na-

tive plants, fruits, and flowers.

Class president Michelle Casilla revealed that it took them a while to prepare and

gather all the materials for the competition.

But the experience, she said, was worthy and memorable for all members.

"We're able to know more about our theme—Chuukese culture," she said, adding that besides utilizing the venue for their class fundraising, students also developed appreciation to other cultures and traditions.

The sophomore class entered a Palauan-inspired booth, all decorated by features mostly found in Palauan culture.

Aside from all-natural inspired materials, members were also shown wearing traditional Palauan clothes as they accommodated visitors inside the house.

The junior class, meanwhile, adopted the unique Marshallese tradition of cooking food underground, called "um."

"The 'mon-komat' or the 'um' is one sure way of making them aware about the Marshallese culture," said class treasurer Arisha Nishimura, adding that it attracted visitors who bought food cooked underground.

Nishimura said research has been conducted by the group prior to finalizing their entry to the competition.

"We make sure that we know a lot about our theme... and it's very helpful to the group," she added.

The booth was also decorated by some island flowers such as ginger and bird of paradise which they said are also found in the Marshall Islands.

Nishimura's group is confident they will get the nod of judges in the competition.

The senior class entered a Tahitian-inspired booth ac-

cessorized by island fruits and flowers on the sides.

MHS principal Karen Borja said winners of the competition will be known on Monday.

"All these booths were built using no nails, roofs, and other materials. Students have been very creative in showcasing their talents and skills. Every year, it's one aspect of the celebration that we're excited about," she said.

Last Wednesday, MHS hosted a dinner party for Japanese visitors and gave them a send-off party on Saturday.

"We're very proud of celebrating this occasion with these kids annually," she said.

Various performances demonstrating different island cultures, games, and rifle drill presentations were also showcased in yesterday's event.

NMC offers computer literacy courses

The Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute, is offering short-term classes to interested individuals who wish to improve their computer application skills. The courses are offered as part of the College's mission to provide customized, continuing educational and professional development opportunities in response to community needs.

Additionally, the classes, which are designed to improve individual knowledge and specific skills, are geared around actual workforce needs and experiences based on course surveys, community needs assessments, and interviews with employers. The schedule and course fees are listed below. For a more detailed description of each course, please contact CDI at 234-5498 ext. 1005 or log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

How to Properly Use a Keyboard (Keyboarding)

March 13, 16-18, 2009
Schedule: 5-8pm (Fri., Mon.)
5-7pm (Tue., Wed.)
Room: W-4
Fee: \$70

Understanding Personal Computers (PCs) and How They Work

March 19-20, 2009 (5-8pm)
Room: W-4
Fee: \$35

E-mail: The Best Way to Communicate

March 23 & 25, 2009
(5-7pm)
Room: W-4
Fee: \$25

How to Use Word Processing Applications

March 26-7 & 30-31, 2009
(5-8pm)
April 1, 2009 (5-8pm)
Room: W-4
Fee: \$90

Creating Digital Presentations

April 2-3 & 6-8, 2009
(5-8pm)
Room: W-4
Fee: \$90

How to Use Spreadsheet Applications

April 13-17, 2009 (5-8pm)
Room: W-4
Fee: \$90

CDI will also be offering its Customer Service and Administrative Training Courses in April running into May. For a schedule of these classes, log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

All interested individuals

should register at least seven days before the first day of class. Certificates of attendance and competence will be awarded to registered students who complete all course requirements. Full payment is required for admission to a

class. To register or for information about these classes, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call Les Ogu-moro 234-5498 extension 1010 or e-mail logumoro@nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

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WASC commends Dandan focus on learning process

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A visiting team from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges left Dandan Elementary School Thursday confident about the school's chances of reaffirming its six-year accreditation.

In a four-page report, the panel lauded the school's focus on learning process resulting in a more effective operation and collaboration between and among teachers and students.

"Dandan school is to be commended for going through the focus on learning process. They have identified strengths as well as critical areas for follow up

that led to the design of their action plan...the staff is a caring group who believe in what they do and the students they serve," the report indicated.

The team had enumerated various "strengths" of the Home of the Tottot: active, motivated, enthusiastic, and respectful students; teachers who are dedicated, conscientious and go above and beyond for their students; and visionary administration and role models of administrators and staff.

The active involvement of the school's parents-teacher association was also lauded along with the strong show of support by the Board of Education.

Principal Jonas Barcinas was elated after learning about WASC's good comments.

"The school has strong collaboration between and among teachers as well as the mentoring that occurs with all staff members," the report said, adding that the school made a lot of opportunities for students to perform.

The team said the school's decision-making process is also commendable.

In order to continue the school's good performance, DES was encouraged to develop a school-wide and grade-level action plan that contains specific and focused goals.

"These goals should be measurable and achievable and based on data. The school should ensure that identified personnel are held accountable and include a timeline that ensures progress is monitored and adjustments made when necessary," the same report added.

School management is also recommended to use open-ended, inquiry-based questions in order to motivate and challenge students and to extend their thinking.

DES earlier reported to WASC that by August 2010, all its teachers and administrators will achieve a passing score in Praxis I and II.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MARCH 2, 1999

NMC to restructure

Under fire for alleged mismanagement of public funds, the Northern Marianas College is likely to face a top-to-bottom restructuring that will eliminate ungraded positions as well as cut personnel costs as part of the bailout proposal for the financially-troubled institution. Manuel Sablan, chair of the Board of Regents, yesterday said he is awaiting an opinion from the NMC legal counsel Jesus Borja whether the policy-making body has the authority to serve termination notices to employees falling under the non-civil service category. He did not indicate, however, the number people who will get the walking papers. He also declined to name high-ranking officials who may be sacked as a result of the board's decision.

CPA justifies port fees hike

Amid criticisms on its decision to raise fees, the Commonwealth Ports Authority said the unforeseen effect of Asia's financial crisis on its operations and the immediate need to raise money to cover debt service were the two main reasons why it had to make the decision on rate adjustment. In defending the rate increase which will take effect in April 2000, CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas said the airport division incurred a net loss of \$4.3 million in fiscal year 1998. In the first quarter of 1999, the division incurred a net loss of \$1 million more. "While debt service is absolutely a central component in our discussions on rate structure, you must realize the unforeseen economic downturn has also become an increasingly important consideration. Over the past year, sharp decreases in visitor arrivals have exponentially impacted our ability to generate revenue," Salas said in a letter sent to Juan S. Tenorio, chairman of the Commonwealth Development Authority.

MARCH 2, 2000

Businessman murdered

A 30-year-old Chinese businessman was found dead early yesterday morning at the Yellow House Massage Parlor in San Jose, and police said there were strong indications that he could be a victim of robbery. The Department of Public Safety has immediately launched a man-hunt for two male suspects who were seen inside the massage parlor arguing with Zhou You before he was murdered. The police said they found the body of Mr. Zhou in a pool of blood when they arrived at the crime scene at around 3:00 a.m. The victim was found sitting by the entrance door, bending forward. His wallet was missing, according to police investigators and witnesses.

Witnesses back suspect's claim of innocence

There is one thing Asterio F. Bajo discovered amid accusations that he raped and killed another guest worker: nightmares occur even after one has already risen from sleep. However, Mr. Bajo's nightmare does not end when police arrested him last week for a crime he insisted he did not commit. Consul Julia Heidemann said Mr. Bajo was still in shock when a team from the Philippine Consulate paid him a visit earlier this week. Mr. Bajo was worried not because he is under threat to spend several years in jail. Ms. Heidemann said he was more worried that his wife in Manila would learn about the accusations he faces here.

MARCH 2, 2001

To deter entry of terrorists FAA puts Saipan on special alert

Federal aviation officials have continuously placed Saipan International Airport under special alert due to intelligence reports indicating vulnerability of Pacific Region from terrorist activities. Feedback from Federal Aviation Administration disclosed consistent terrorist movements by various extremist group, the most noted is Osama bin Laden's faction. Mr. bin Laden is the primary suspect in the bombing of American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. The Commonwealth Ports Authority has already beefed up its security measures to ensure safety of passengers. CPA has been strictly monitoring suspicious travelers.

Bill to void 3-yr. limit hurdles first obstacle

The fate of nonresident workers toiling in the CNMI now hinges on the hands of the Senators. This, after the House of Representatives yesterday passed in first and final reading legislation that would repeal Public Law 11-69, or which places a three-year limit on the stay of nonresident workers in the Northern Marianas. House Bill 12-317 was sent into the upper chamber of the CNMI Legislature after 11 of the 13 lawmakers present during the lower house session approved its passage. Rep. Dino M. Jones abstained from the voting citing conflict of interest. She said his employing a nonresident worker disqualifies his vote on the bill.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
OVERSTAYERS REPORT

Monday, March 2, 2009, first publication
Monday, March 9, 2009, second publication

Notice is hereby given that, according to the records maintained by the Commonwealth as of February 23, 2009, the following persons have overstayed the permission granted upon their entry to the Commonwealth for employment purposes. Persons in an overstayer status are required to depart the Commonwealth immediately. Persons who depart the Commonwealth voluntarily are eligible to return; those who are deported are not eligible to return.

Permissions granted upon entry may have been extended or the entry status may be changed under a number of different provisions of the Commonwealth law, but all extensions and changes must be documented and the applicable fees paid. If the necessary applications and supporting document have not been correctly completed, filed, or recorded, a name may appear in overstayer status although an extension may have been granted upon completion or recording of the necessary documentation.

If your name is on the list set out below and you have or should have a current status allowing you to be in the Commonwealth, please report to Evelyn Sablan, Executive Secretary to the Director of Labor, second floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, Saipan, no later than March 16, 2009, to correct the records.

Name	LIDS No.	Name	LIDS No.	Name	LIDS No.	Name	LIDS No.
*****, ABUL	127939	DELIZO, ERNESTO	129436	LIN, BINGQI	294452	SIMBULAN, LOLITA CALIGUIA	285326
*****, BAKUL	131487	DELOS SANTOS, ROWENA GASPER	312368	LIN, BIYUN	289292	SINGH, HIKMAT BAHADUR	158202
ABANTE, JOSEFINO M	150216	DELOS SANTOS, YOLANDA S	123949	LIN, GUOBIAO	289691	SOLOMON, ALMA B	104869
ABAYGAR, ZENAIDA N	112336	DELVO, MAURECIO P	302488	LIN, JINKUN	151152	SONG, JUN	165536
ABDUR, ROB	151151	DIMALANTA, ROWENA ASUNCION	116206	LIN, JINKUN	151255	SONG, XIAOYAN	125137
ABUEL, LOURDES QUINTERO	125740	DOLLETE, MILA D L C	132824	LIN, SONGFENG	141448	SU, SHIXIA	289301
ACERO, JESUS R	132145	DOLOTINA, AMANDO SOPOT	202994	LIN, XIAOLIN	204141	SUMAT, RONALDO V	105064
ADVERSALO, JAMES PASION	296903	DONG, LI	297520	LING, ZHIHUA	297392	SUN, HONGCHUN	190502
ALAM, SHAHA	137274	DUNGO, LORNA CANONO	303097	LISING, REYNALDO TONGOL	288313	SUN, YAN	284186
ALCALA, LORNA T	139873	DURAN, MELINDA MATIC	164749	LIU, HUIPING	170363	SUN, ZHONGLIANG	302016
ALFONSO, ROSAURO P	117463	DYKSTRA, JOLENE MYRA	287542	LIU, JIANYING	300604	TAN, YUCHENG	301677
ALITA, MERLITA P	158372	EGASANI, CORNELIO AVELINO	205558	LIU, KUNPENG	296096	TIBAYAN, RODERICK C	158104
ALMOJUELA, CESAR G	101655	ESMERO, AMADEO SAGUINSIN	108732	LIU, MEI CHUN	280304	TOLBO, REYNALDO K	122234
ALONSABE, BEN R	281321	ESPINA, PRECILLA ATIENZA	301163	LOOC, SHIELA ALVARICO	297860	TONG, YISHAN	296040
ALPINO, ARTHUR REYES	137336	ESPLANA, GENELITO LAUDIT	174615	LOPEZ, BERNARDINO DELA CRUZ	288373	TORREFIEL, CARLOS T	132311
ALTOVEROS, LEA B	124104	ESQUIVEL, DELFIN JR HERNANDEZ	311301	LU, JIANGUO	303235	TRINIDAD, ROLANDO T	126479
AMOR, SEGUNDINO J	127015	ESTABILLO, JOYCIE APOSTOL	154337	LUIS, VIVIAN I	137231	TU, ZUN LI	280306
ANDRADE, AMELITO M	100238	FABILLAR, RODOLFO LOVITE	171491	LUNTAYAO, JOENA DEMAPILES	200218	UNISA, MARISSA A	287015
ARAZA, GREGORIO LATOJA	137311	FAN, HONGQIN	197849	MABANSAG, PHILIP CEZAR S	138514	VALDEZCO, GILBERT DEPAZ	302801
ARCALES, DANIEL A	120772	FANG, LIPING	287850	MACASERO, FRANCISCO EWARAT	293161	VELARDE, MELBA OSAL	299791
ARCEGA, LORNA IGNACIO	121164	FENG, YUANYUAN	312636	MACASERO, MARIA NORA I	204812	VELARDE, THELMA MERLY R	101333
ARGUELLES, MA NENITA E	153640	FERIA, DICKY B	119640	MADARANG, ELIZABETH L	147274	VERGARA, VICENTE A	129704
ARRIETA, VIRGILIO T	105828	FERIA, LORITO DOMINICO	203418	MAGDAYAO, GODOFREDO P.	301867	VILLANUEVA, ARMANDO E	107275
ASAMI, KINUYO	302925	FERRER, ERNESTO C	186736	MALABORBOR, DANILO F	150646	VILLANUEVA, SHIRLEY L	137331
AURE, REYNALDO RODA	200564	FLORES, JOSELITO	112974	MALINAY, HILARION MASIPAG	290842	VINLUAN, ROBELYN G	149985
BACAY JR, RENATO CORTEZ	294301	FUNTANAR, ARCELI LESACA	296772	MANAHAN, MARVIN V	102371	VIOLA, JULIE ANN PERDIGON	282768
BACHICHA, RUBEN SANTOS	205606	GABATINO, MARY ANN G	123942	MANIMTIM, LILIBETH ANTONIO	148772	WAN, LIPING	302309
BALDAVA, LYDIA SAN PEDRO	154424	GALANG, ELIZABETH NAPO	302389	MASANGCAY, ABEL BAGANG	204853	WANG, CHUNHUA	280215
BALINO, TESSIE LEONES	183977	GAMAB, BERNADETTE D	123600	MASANGCAY, ROWENA DELACRUZ	134772	WANG, DINGDING	297696
BALORAN, RESTITUTO D	103496	GAMBON, MELCHOR C	150136	MEDIANISTA, SONET D	159192	WANG, HAIFENG	199480
BANAGA, LEONILA B	150644	GANADEN, JULIET T	108443	MEJOS, DOMINADOR M	102969	WANG, RENYI	174269
BANAGA, LEONILA C	118585	GAO, YONGHUA	130086	MERANTE, LOLITA DELIVIOS	123950	WANG, YIN	282570
BAO, JIEJUAN	284605	GAOIRAN, JOSEFINA MADRIAGA	205114	MINA, ROMEO AGOHO	297622	WANG, YU QIN	285097
BATOBATAN, ERVIN A	161017	GARCIA, BERNARDO B.	107762	NAN, CHANGGEN	286432	WAYAN, GORDON A	129712
BORJA, PAMELA LUGATIMAN	164452	GENG, CUILAN	288905	NAVARRO, JEHAZEL DELOS SANTOS	205608	WERCHAN, WALTHER ANDREAS	312043
BRIZUELA, LORENZO B	108467	GERMAN, BIBIANA E	152245	NERIZON, MARY JEAN MEJIA	293673	WU, CUIHONG	288926
BUCU, MA VICTORIA DELA CRUZ	147371	GETUABAN, FLORENCIO ABABA	312531	NOZAKI, KOJI	134746	WU, MEIXIAN	188670
BUENSUCESO, MARIO D	103755	GONG, CHUNHUI	288326	OBRA, LOLITA B	147762	WU, SHU FEN	180545
CACATIAN, LOUIE MORATA	291299	GUAN, SHENGYONG	280450	OTARA, NELSON S	142813	WU, XIAOWEN	194847
CACDAC, ROSALIA H	101020	GUANGLIN, CHEN	174195	PABALE, RODOLFO B.	111564	XIE, LINGFANG	198087
CAGAS, MARTINA BANAGUA	173144	GUARDIAN, NOLITO DIMURA	301830	PAMINTUAN, REMIGIO M	141731	XU, FEIFEI	296968
CAINTOY, REGINA SANTOS	171545	GUO, JING	302344	PAMITTAN, RICO C	146514	XU, HONGHUA	285775
CAO, QIN FEN	156571	GUO, LINGFANG	188355	PASCUA, DANILO A	161698	XU, HU	288261
CAO, YINGZI	144977	HAYAG, VEBEN JOSE S	108062	PATILLAS, ROMEL RIVERAL	297859	XU, MINGGEN	297915
CAPACIO, NEIL SULIT	297476	HE, JUN	150667	PATIO, DONALD RAMOS	204879	XU, ZHIGUANG	200601
CARONILLA, VICTOR FITERO	173921	HIDALGO, ARIEL M	138098	PATRON, WILLY M	153653	XUE, WEINA	296307
CASALME, NENETH C	189443	HOLGADO, ARIEL I	146722	PEADA, JOYNAL	137340	YANG, HUAN	173056
CASTRO, MICHAEL TIOMICO	302388	HONG, YU QING	127871	PIAO, JIZHU	158263	YANG, JINJI	200392
CERVANTES, MEYTHYER	187698	HOSSAIN, MOHAMMAD AMZAD	135868	PO, EDWIN LIM	163616	YANG, LIHUA	191860
CERVANTES, RASHYL GONZALES	312507	HOSSAIN, MOKTHAR	173811	POMARIJOS, ALBERT V	158133	YANG, LIULAN	188691
CERVANTES, VIC M	155256	HOSSAIN, MOTAHAR	131012	PRADO, MACARIO JR BAJIT	124581	YANG, TIARONG	287778
CHE, LONG FAN	310603	HU, WU MEI	280301	QIAN, TAIGUO	287046	YANG, WEN QING	292505
CHEN, GE	287572	HUANG, LIANSHENG	180743	QIN, GUIYING	154532	YANG, XIUHUI	195403
CHEN, LISHAN	312635	INDIONGCO, OFELIA SANTOS	132598	QUINDOZA, ROMANO GALICIA	301449	YANG, YANXIA	128304
CHEN, MEIER	293226	IROG, LUCINA DE LEON	128128	RAHMAN, MOHAMMED AZIBUR	301849	YAO, JU WEN	141706
CHEN, QINGHONG	286645	JIANG, ZHELONG	288072	RAHMAN, MOHAMMED HABIBUR	174206	YOO-ON, SOPHIDA	102210
CHEN, XIUYUN	312634	JIN, CHANGFAN	202993	RAMOS, PAULINA ABEDES	130522	YU, JINLIAN	284184
CHEN, YAER	130223	JIN, HONGMEI	282092	RATTANAKUN, NARA	104024	YU, MEIYING	174700
CHEN, YAJIA	159329	JIN, JING	297447	REJANO, ISAGANI	109056	ZHANG, AIMING	296990
CHOI, SEONG IN	154335	JIN, RENGUO	104610	REMILLOZA, RONALD VILLANUEVA	302903	ZHANG, FENGLIN	302303
CHUMJAI, CHONNIKAN	119736	JIN, SHENGZHE	293349	REYES, ARNOLD O	142379	ZHANG, JIANJUN	194145
CISNERO, LORNA M	156843	JIN, TAI JI	191584	RIZO, LERMA M	106198	ZHANG, JINHONG	289310
CORNEJO, NENITA D	125899	JIN, YUHUA	175218	RODRIGUEZ, RIZA PARAISO	153143	ZHANG, SHIMIN	171512
CORTEY, MICCOLE ASHLEY Z	311989	JING, YAN LI	205607	RONDA, VERNICE JANE S	199863	ZHANG, WEI	195842
CORTEZ, ARTURO L	158785	K C, BIMALA KUMARI	161118	RUBINO, EMMA ORTIZ	312504	ZHANG, YA PENG	291467
COSTALES, SAMMY FONTANILLA	105717	KANG, CHENG GEN	154399	SALENGA, DANILO M	128174	ZHAO, ZHENGLONG	302288
CRISTOBAL, NESTOR R	143170	KHONKARN, BOONKONG	128340	SALIBIO, CLAUDIO JR V	117550	ZHENG, BIAO	104607
CUBI, VICTOR JR O	164409	LADABAN, EUGENIA FLORES	123304	SALIVIO, RONNIE D	138010	ZHENG, HE MING	118315
CUI, LINHUA	128064	LAGUATAN, REYNALDO P	127962	SAN JUAN, YOLANDA ASALDO	198196	ZHENG, JIANHONG	151047
CUI, MEILAN	192172	LAN, YUAN MEI	192256	SANCHEZ, ARLENE JACOB	312698	ZHENG, ZHIZHONG	132286
CUSTODIO, JULIETA C	133586	LAVARRO, CIELITO A	120603	SANO, DANILO M	127888	ZHOU, JIAN	164237
DAGAAS, MARIETTA LAUZON	135589	LI, DEXIANG	280758	SANQUI, MARVIN BERNARDO	297817	ZHOU, JIANFENG	301678
DAI, JINGSHAN	303108	LI, GUANGFAN	281565	SANTOS, NORMAN CHIUOCO	297976	ZHOU, LAN	164545
DAI, LIXIU	289302	LI, HUALAN	180035	SECRETARIO, JOY CARUSA	118344	ZHOU, QINGLAN	297790
DANTES, TEODORA E	139921	LI, MINGHUA	296620	SHAO, CHUNPING	301336	ZHOU, XUECHAO	299395
DE GUZMAN, ROMULO C	142863	LI, MINGXIU	295481	SHARIF, MOHAMMAD	139010	ZHU, LIQIN	141674
DE QUINTOS, ARCELI B	148140	LI, XUEMEI	312637	SHEN, YING	288206	ZOU, LILI	287849
DEL ROSARIO, VON RYAN EUGENIO	310540	LI, YAN	297357	SIBULO, CARMEN	105927		
DELA CRUZ, EXEQUIEL JR LEONARDO	310231	LIM, JIN TAIK	283233	SIKDER, MOHAMAD BADAL	175067		
DELA CRUZ, LEODEGARIO JR L	118268	LIM, ROSARIO P	111268	SILVESTRE, IMELDA IRAL	295686		

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Obama's ballpark budget-

We wonder whether President Obama's proposed budget for fiscal 2010 could pass the "stress test" to which his administration is subjecting America's 19 largest banks. Obama's budget assumes a sharp but short recession; unemployment will average 8.1 percent in 2009, it says, then decline in 2010 and after. However, the bank test assumes unemployment will hit at least 8.4 percent this year and that it will continue (begin ital) rising (end ital) through 2010, perhaps into double digits. Needless to say, a good many private forecasters are even gloomier, predicting not only a much deeper slump but a slow, or even flat, recovery.

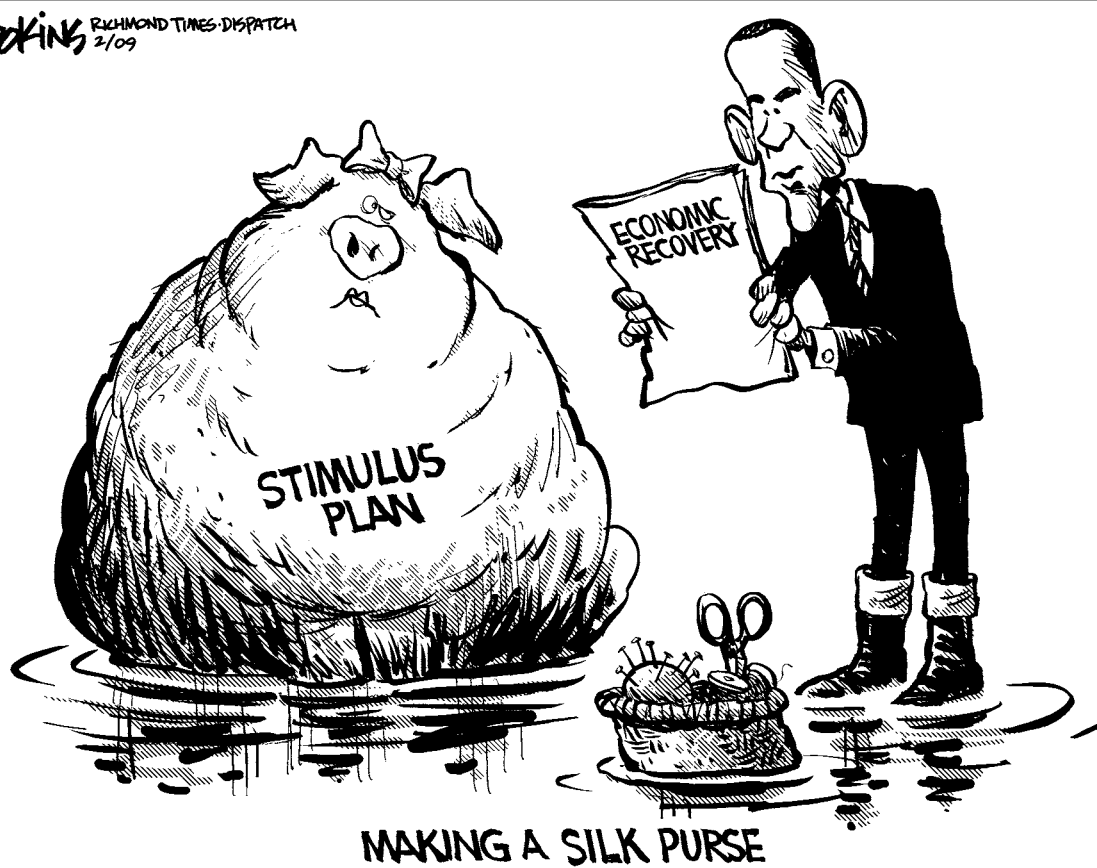
So, does the Obama administration's forecast breach its honest budgeting promise? No doubt, the relative optimism—as opposed to, say, actual cuts in entitlement programs—accounts for much of the deficit reduction after this year's all-time high (in nominal terms) of \$1.75 trillion. And equally plainly, any president has to be especially careful about voicing pessimism, lest he prove self-fulfilling.

But while upbeat, the administration's forecasts are within the range of reasonable possibilities, according to economists we consulted. As the White House points out, Obama's forecasters had the advantage of inside knowledge of upcoming policy moves. The administration is clearly banking on the success of the \$787 billion fiscal stimulus package, as well as on its still-emerging plan to shore up the banking system. And, as Christina Romer, head of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, said Thursday, "all forecasts are subject to a substantial margin of error."

But that's just the problem. We live at a time of extraordinary economic distress and extraordinary economic uncertainty. Most of the surprises lately have been on the downside. On Friday, for example, the government announced that the economy shrank at an annual rate of 6.2 percent in the last three months of 2008—almost double its previous estimate, and worse than the 5 percent drop many forecasters had anticipated.

It is in that sense that the contrast between the budget forecast and the bank stress test is instructive and unsettling. Whereas banks potentially in need of government aid are expected to show that their business plans can stand up to a worse-than-expected downturn, the government itself is not.

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BRACKINS RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH
2/09

Unsolicited advice to all gubernatorial candidates

Dear gubernatorial hopeful,

Because you have thrown your hat into the ring and are vying to be our islands' next governor, I offer some unsolicited advice on what is needed to repair the damage that has been accumulating over the years to our economy and county. These thoughts are for you to ponder over while you run around shaking hands and promising all sorts of goodies. Remember, reality sets in after election time, so begin thinking about what you will be doing then.

My first advice is to bring together the mixture of people living in this country that are United States citizens and have the right to vote. Too often in the past all the candidates have preached mainly to the indigenous populace. The rest of us who are not indigenous are left out. But you as the new governor must speak to us also. You must include us because we are part of the community.

There are more and more mainland United States citizens actively living and working in the CNMI. Many of them have much to contribute to this country. But there is a saying among the local people that says: "Outsiders—Last to hire and first to fire!"

Many of us mainland residents have come to love and enjoy living here, but feel left out of the mainstream. Rarely are we called upon to serve. Past governors have looked upon us as curiosity pieces to look at but not to touch. Can you recall how many mainland U.S. citizens have served in a cabinet post in recent years or in any other position of influence?

Consider the other ethnic groups of U.S. citizens either born here or who have obtained U.S. citizenship that can vote also. There are quite a few. All of them love and enjoy calling the CNMI home. They all want to serve and share in making a better government. They all bring many fresh ideas and energy that will help our country. These islands have become our home as much as that of the indigenous people.

First, we are all United States citizens and residents of these islands. Only second do we pay allegiance to our ethnicity. Ignore this advice and you could lose the election.

The next piece of advice when you win is—don't hire cabinet members and agency heads who have no experience or schooling. Stop hiring them because they helped you win or are your relatives. With incompetent top management how can a country grow? Your first duty is to our country. Relatives should not come before the nation. If you let them come first, you become a hypocrite and a false leader to us.

One of the most important things you must begin doing immediately upon taking office is to begin training our citizens to become productive workers. Too many of us have been demoralized by the endless influx of non-resident workers. The overabundance of non-residence workers has caused a blight on our nation. The system has demoralized so many people that only a handful will work. Ever wonder why so many of our citizens are on welfare and unskilled?

It is time that we become the laborers, skilled in the various trades and also in management professions. You must insist on developing an educated populace willing to assume any and all roles in the

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



workplace. Blue collar trades people must be placed on the same level as white collar employees (office employees) and paid accordingly.

There is no better way to build a nation's economy than with educated citizens capable of running their own country. As governor, you can do so much to motivate us. Your examples and strong motivation will encourage us to succeed. Lead us forward; do not push us from behind.

Remember being a governor means that we the people place our trust in you. Regardless who finances you or does vote-getting favors for you, your obligations and duties are always to us the people. Do not prostitute yourself to any family or group that you feel obligated to. Do not smear your character with innuendos. It takes a lifetime to build a character. But a stupid and careless momentary act can shower damaging shame on you and on us.

Though we are in a recession, these are the times to become innovative. I have repeatedly said that we have acres of diamonds under our feet, but unfortunately we do not know how to mine them. It is not lack of funding that holds us back. It is lack of determination and resourcefulness.

Let us turn our heads towards Asia where we have a potential market of over 3.5 billion people which includes Taiwan, Japan, Korea and China. A bit further is India and Europe with millions more of people. We are close to Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia. These add millions more. Have we studied how to sell to them? Is there anything we can sell to them?

I strongly urge you to set up a department whose sole job is to solicit industries to come here and set-up their companies. This should be headed by someone experienced in business and negotiation. You must also set up a department to deal with the airlines in all of the above mentioned regions to seek cooperative flights. Again this is to be done by an experienced individual.

You as our new governor must motivate us to become self-sufficient. Its okay to invite foreign investors, but our people must work in their investment structures. You must insist that our trained and skilled citizens be hired, not outsiders.

There is other unsolicited advice I could offer on how we can become strong economically. **But the most important is that you come and walk among us and feel with us.** Talk to us about the problems you are facing on our behalf. Become our "great father" as chiefs of old did. If you explain what we are facing and how you want us to work with you, we will cooperate with you. Don't send emissaries. We need to see you, talk with

See **UNSOLICITED** on Next Page

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Letters to the Editor

Developmental Diversity Awareness Month

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 ushered a paradigm shift that is slowly gaining in how we perceive and deal with developmental disability, or, “differability”, a new term I just coined. March each year in the CNMI focuses on developmental disability, with particular emphasis on traumatic head injuries and school counselors this year.

ADA specifically points out, *inter alia*, that people with disabilities are severely disadvantaged socially, vocationally, economically, and educationally; they are a discrete minority who faces purposeful limitations and restrictions, unequally treated, powerless to constructively participate in society; that it is ADA’s goal to assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for such individuals.

We will pardon the archaic use of the word “disability” to characterize the natural and sometimes accident-prone human journey. Indeed, disability is a measurement term that pits a certain condition to an imagined standard or norm. It reflects a previous understanding of life viewed as static substance rather than as a unique creature in an individual journey through the process of evolution. Thus, like toys in a factory line, people from womb-to-tomb are adjudged on whether they fit the standard mode, otherwise, they are shifted out in quality control and set aside for repair. Life is viewed as a problem to be fixed, rather than a condition to be celebrated.

I asked our Child Study Team to look at a young boy who had difficulty focusing, to put it mildly, on his academic work, and had exhibited mood swings that go from angelic to terror-prolific. The intent was to find ways to engage Juan in the learning process based on his unique learning portals. Current educational theory proposes an image of multiple intelligences of everyone, with varying degrees of intensity depending on primary or developed modalities, thus, no educational system promotes homogeneity in academic results or uniformity in pedagogical approaches. The days of one-size-fits-all are long gone, i.e., as far as the rhetoric goes. Unfortunately, the practices and the processes on the ground are fraught with old solidly crusted prejudices.

Juan refused to deliver the notice to his parents that the counselor prepared requesting for their presence in the initial team meet-

ing. “You are going to get me into Special Education, aren’t you?” was his blunt accusatory query.

Might as well call someone a “homo”, the favored putdown among 12-year old boys, when suggesting that one might be enrolled in special education. When I explained that we were just going to check his hearing and his sight, his physical coordination and balance, he immediately identified with his buddy Pedro’s Child Study assessments. “Just like Pedro’s?” he blurted. “Yes, just like Pedro,” I answered.

Along with the inaccurate image that “disability” projects of physical, social and psychological inadequacies, “special education” is perceived as the warehouse of defective merchandize, differing in various schools only in the state of their organization, the orderliness of their operation, the currency of their inventory, and the ease of access to their database. Compliance to top-down regulatory-dictated procedures allegedly from fund sources is the rule of operations. Individualized educational programs (IEPs) are forms that are filled up, which may or may not have any relationship, intentional or accidental, to actual teaching interventions.

Then we have our ill-equipped teachers on multiple intelligences and the learning postals outside the standardized assessment coral. Employed in the same manner as the imported labor in bonded servitude practiced widely in the private and public sectors, teachers become employees on a fortnightly payroll rather than partners in an educational enterprise. When arbitrary policies are adopted on “inadequate information” and stubbornly adhered to because to do otherwise, or worst, to accept that one might have hastily adopted an ill-considered decision, would “make us look foolish,” then one begins to understand the capricious and arbitrary conduct practiced at high places.

In a recent BoE meeting when the celebrated GTC dilapidated building roulette and SVES kindergarten building funds shuffle was formally served after it was cooked elsewhere, Tanya King was kind enough to remind the administrators that the next time decisions of this nature was made, that effort must be made to involve all the stockholders in the decision-making process. It appeared that SVES was not consulted on the decision, let alone privy to the fund shift.

This essay does not try to locate inefficiency nor allocate blame. The ethos of creation vs. evolution that raged more than a century ago is still fundamentally with us in that we refuse to see individuals as unique, unrepeatable gifts of humanity whose value is inherent in their being and becoming rather than whether they measure up to an idealized picture of what they ought to be in a paradise somewhere before ‘the fall,’ or what they should be in restoration in a never-neverland elsewhere. Our developmental diversity needs to be celebrated, whether that range be labeled autism, down syndrome, cerebral palsy, etc., and to which, at least, in the tradition I am familiar with, it is that to which we unequivocally and without hesitation, declare: *L’achaim! Amen! Anshallah! Namaste!*

As articulated by the one who has since operationalized the audacity of hope, in his first address to the joint session of the US Congress on the nation’s current economic crisis: “... The answers to our problems don’t lie beyond our reach. They exist in our laboratories and our universities, in our fields and our factories, in the imaginations of our entrepreneurs and the pride of the hardest-working people on Earth. Those qualities that have made America the greatest force of progress and prosperity in human history we still possess in ample measure. What is required now we ... take responsibility for our future once more.”

The future lies in our hands. The differability of the population is best handled by heads conjoined together in cooperation and collaboration, of inclusion and consultation, rather than relying on the expertise of those who can read the etches in our palms or divine the alignment of the stars.

Beyond the monthly focus, developmental disability needs to be a yearlong preoccupation, and let IEPs as a teaching guide be a tool for every student so that reality be more accurately named—developmental diversity of the differently-able will henceforth be the operating mode of the human journey, and that equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency be universally accessible to all.

Jaime Vergara
Via e-mail

The light at the end of the tunnel

The CNMI’s general elections are quickly approaching. In eight months, we hope to elect leaders who have the hearts to do what is right, the minds to ensure that they know what they are doing, and the stomachs to handle the political pressure from the old boys’ network who insist on doing things “the old way, because that’s how it’s always been done!” We hope to elect leaders based on their qualifications, not familial ties. We hope to elect frugal leaders who drive their own cars and pay for their own gas, pay for their own cellular phone bill, eliminate or reduce discretionary/slush funds, and travel only when the U.S. Congress, President Obama, or God Himself asks them to. In essence, we hope to elect real leaders who will practice what they preach and will be sure to uphold their campaign promises once in office.

While I continue to hope and pray for new visionaries to step up and lead us to the promised land of better times, I continue to hear “excuses” from good people why they are not willing to run. Here are a few:

If I run for House or Senate, I will make less money than what I am making now. Please realize that many who proudly serve in our Armed Forces and put their lives in harm’s way are not getting paid what they deserve, especially those who serve in the most troubled regions of the world. They do it for country. If a soldier sacrifices and courageously serves his or her country, would it be asking too much for you to serve your beloved commonwealth for a few years? While our soldiers heroically risk life and limb in their battle against terrorism, would it be asking too much for you to wage a war against corruption, nepotism, rampant crime, drug lords and drug abuse, and a myriad of other problems that have plagued our community for far too long? If you are willing to serve the CNMI for two or four years as a leader and implement bold measures that benefit our people, then our entire commonwealth prospers, and that includes you.

I don’t want me or my family to get criticized and slandered. This is something I have heard frequently. These days, Jesus Christ Himself would get criticized if He decided to run. Online critics like “Brownny” and “Proud Filipina” and “Wolverine” would probably say, *“Jesus Christ?! Who does He think He is? The son of God?!”* or *“Where has this guy been for the last 2,000 years and only now He wants to run for office?”* Yes, it is true. The crude online critic gallery has gotten verywell, crude. I suppose that when people are able to hide behind anonymity or an alias, saying nasty things is quite easy, and perhaps even therapeutic, as it provides an outlet to vent their frustrations and anger. But I often wonder, would they make such crass comments publicly in a forum or to your face, or would they write such spiteful things if we all knew who they were? Perhaps not. Even if you were able to walk on water or part the blue sea, expect criticism and realize that you are not alone. I can assure you, it will be rough at first, but once you get through it, it will only make you more resilient and more determined to do the right thing.

It costs too much money to run. I used to think the same thing, but evidently, times have changed. Rep. Tina Sablan proved this by running a campaign that was, to say the least, unorthodox. She spent less money on her campaign than many spend for a night out on the town. Tina ran an unconventional campaign because she believed in her heart that tents and tables and 20-foot poster boards were no longer necessary to get a person elected. With that said, not all of us are Tina Sablans, and I still believe in intelligent campaigning and good marketing strategies. I firmly believe you can get elected on a shoestring budget if you are willing to put on your running shoes and go house to house and remember to always be upfront and honest with your constituents. Voters are very fickle these days. Tell them what they *need* to hear, not what they *want* to hear. Tell them

not just *what* you are going to do, but *how* you are going to do it. And as far as getting your name out there? Letters to the editor certainly help. So does viral marketing: e-mails, Facebook, Myspace, blogs, etc. Embrace technology. It is inexpensive and it can be very effective if done right!

If you really want the CNMI to be a better place, then expect to play a part in the movement for improvement. If you do not want to throw your hat into the political arena, then at the very least be forthright. Voice your opinions and tell candidates not what you expect from them, but what you demand from them. When leaders are doing something you feel is wrong, call them up and tell them. If you see a bad bill being introduced, go up and rally against it! Let our leaders know where you stand! Smiling and kissing them and then talking trash behind their backs only exacerbates the secret wheeling and dealing and dishonest politics that we have grown accustomed to.

If every single person in the CNMI could be open and honest with each other from this day forward, we could stop talking about the problems of the CNMI and start doing something about it. The solutions to our problems have been answered numerous times in forums and in letters to the editor. Now it is just a matter of finding the right leaders who will take the ball and run with it.

As far as criticism goes, remember these wise words from Aristotle: “Criticism is something we can avoid easily by saying nothing, doing nothing, and being nothing.”

The time for change is right now, and it begins with you. Brothers and sisters, please take a good look in the mirror. You just might be our beacon of light at the end of this dark tunnel.

Ed Propst
Dandan

UNSOLICITED

From Page 10

you and break bread with you.

It seems that once a candidate is elected governor, he becomes a different person. First, he isolates himself from us. Then he surrounds himself with a bunch of sycophants. Slowly he loses touch with us. When he does appear, we are made to feel that the “Pope” is appearing.

Please don’t lose the touch of humility and the “milk of human understanding.” At all times be truthful to us. Be firm but be just. Don’t lie or hide your actions. Be transparent. Tell us what you and the rest of your administration are doing.

Mend the fence with the United States. Immediately and sincerely ask for help to straighten out the problems we have created with the CUC, including water supply and wastage. There is both money and help readily available if we approach the United States properly. Remember the U.S needs us as badly as we need the U.S. But we must be willing to be open with them and expect the same from them.






Strive to work harmoniously as a unit with the Legislature and Judiciary. All of you should work as a team, not as separate entities. It is a must to have the three of you agreeing.

May the most sincere man win. But whoever you may be remember: “These are the times that try the souls of men.” You have the opportunity to be a great leader or just another governor. Only you can motivate us to aspire to greatness. You must be our strong leader in all activities. You must lead and make us believe in you but most of all in ourselves. **Give us the vision.** We stand ready to follow and serve with you. Good luck at the polls.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

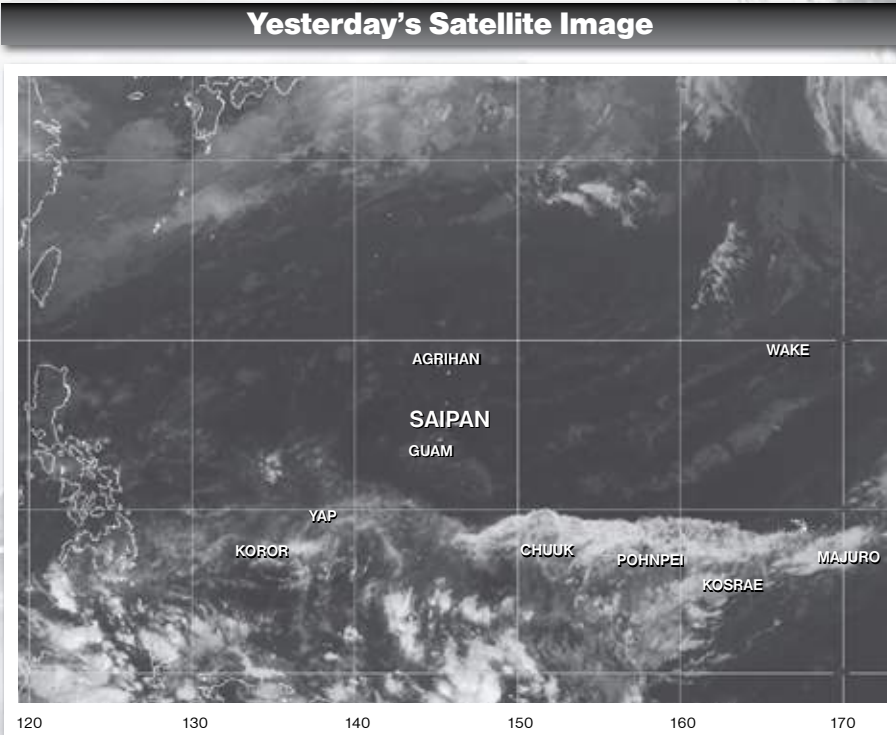
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84 ▼74
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▼78
Yap	Sunny	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▼75
Kosrae	Sunny	▲89 ▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲82 ▼78

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Sunny	▲72 ▼62
Beijing	Cloudy	▲39 ▼25
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲75 ▼66
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲73 ▼68
London	Mostly Sunny	▲48 ▼39
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲68 ▼52
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲93 ▼74
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲79 ▼62
Miami	Sunny	▲71 ▼51
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲31 ▼20
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲50 ▼40
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲49 ▼39
Pusan	Cloudy	▲48 ▼40
Rome	Rain	▲56 ▼48
Salem	Cloudy	▲54 ▼38
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲60 ▼50
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲45 ▼36
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲50 ▼37
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲36 ▼25

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
4:45 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
10:28 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
5:39 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over a large area south of Koror, Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei. This area is south of a line from 2N130E to 5N140E to 6N160E. A weak wave is causing scattered showers over Kosrae within 90 miles of a line from 5N162E to 7N169E. A low-level trough extends northeastward from EQ168E to east of Majuro at 8N175E then turns northward to beyond 25N at 173E. Scattered showers are occurring along the trough axis over Majuro east of a line from 5N169E to 18N177E aided by upper-level divergence. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found east of the trough or northeast of Wake Island north of a line from 22N170E to 17N180.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:34 AM	6:25 PM	Today	9:44 AM	11:01 PM
Tuesday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM	Tuesday	10:34 AM	
Wednesday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM	Wednesday	11:30 AM	12:02 AM
Thursday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM	Thursday	12:31 PM	1:05 AM
Friday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM	Friday	1:35 AM	2:06 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009				
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS	
Saipan-Rota			Rota-Saipan	
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm 1,7	CO 9598	3:25am 4:00am 5,6
Saipan-Guam			Guam-Saipan	
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am Daily	CO9598	2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm 1,7 via Rota	CO9596	7:00am 7:50am Daily
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6	CO9600	10:20am 11:10am Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm 2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm 5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita			Narita-Saipan	
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am Daily	NW 076	10:15am 2:40pm Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7	NW 077	6:25pm 1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm Daily	NW 100	8:45pm 1:10am+1 Daily
Guam-Narita			Narita-Guam	
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm Daily	NW 74	9:45am 2:20pm Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm Daily	NW 82	10:30am 3:10pm Daily
Saipan-Osaka			Osaka-Saipan	
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am 1,4,6	OZ 120	9:50pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm Daily	NW 084	10:40am 3:05pm Daily
Guam-Osaka			Osaka-Guam	
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm Daily	NW 80	10:30am 3:00pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			Nagoya-Saipan	
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm 1:20am+1 Daily
Guam-Nagoya			Nagoya-Guam	
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm Daily	NW 24	10:00am 2:30pm Daily
Saipan-Incheon			Incheon-Saipan	
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am 2:20pm Daily
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm 1:00am+1 7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka	OZ 120	7:10pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm Daily	OZ 603	8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan			Busan-Saipan	
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:00pm 2:10am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Shanghai			Shanghai-Saipan	
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am 2,6	FM 843	7:15pm 1:50am+1 1,5
Rota-Guam			Guam-Rota	
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm 1,7	CO 9598	2:30am 3:00am 5,6
Guam-Palau			Palau-Guam	
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm 1,7	CO 954	2:30am 5:25am 1,2
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm 3,5	CO 892	2:35am 5:30am 4,6
Palau-Manila			Manila-Palau	
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm 3,5	CO 892	10:10pm 1:50am+1 3,5
Guam-Manila			Manila-Guam	
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm 3,5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm Daily	CO 934	11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			Manila-Nagoya	
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm Daily	NW 72	6:30am 11:05am Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			Hongkong-Incheon	
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm Daily	OZ 724	12:30am 4:50am Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm Daily	OZ 7183	12:45am 5:05am 1,4,6
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm 5,7	OZ 722	1:30pm 5:45pm Daily
Narita-Manila			Manila-Narita	
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm Daily	NW 2	7:45am 12:40pm Daily
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)				

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letter to the Editor

Working together to help ourselves get the promises made to the CNMI

Were you one of the 6,000 signers or 206 businesses that supported the creation of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument? I was. In fact, for those who don't already know, I was actively involved. Soon after the idea was presented and it seemed as if local officials were supportive, I wrote an article for *MP Magazine*. What inspired me about the idea of creating a local national monument and the reasons I wrote the article are the same. I supported the idea, because I could see that there would be opportunities for the CNMI that, given our local economic conditions, would be hard for the CNMI to achieve on its own. Little did I know, when I wrote the article, just how actively involved I would become.

Today, I am still actively involved as a continuing member of the Friends of the Monument. From the experience throughout the last year, I learned a great deal about the power of the people. I witnessed the power of people working in full action to achieve a common goal. I came to understand how culture and public policy must seek balance in order to be of any advantage whatsoever.

Many people ask me on a weekly basis, "What now? What's happening? When will we start to see the benefits?" I

take a deep breath and explain that it's not a simple answer. As we offered in numerous public meetings and getting together with Friends of the Monument, this type of project is not a "one shot and it's done" sort of deal. Just as the original monument idea was never just a done deal; the work on "what our monument can do for the CNMI" has just begun. Without public input and participation, we will end up with whatever is given to us. I ask everyone, supporters and non-supporters alike, is this what you want?

The sad reality is that the monument project could end up like so many other federally attempted programs and projects. Democracy is a system of the people and it only truly works when people participate. If people don't participate, then we get, in essence, nothing. Or we get what is handed to us.

I've read recently, a couple of letters to the editors in both newspapers, from other Friends of the Monument reminding us of some of the promises that were made by the Council for Environment Quality, an office of the White House, during its visit here last October. During the public meeting, held at the Fiesta Resort and Spa with over 400 people in attendance, then chairman James Connaughton made an impressive

effort to meet as many people in the room at that meeting as he possibly could. I was present in one particular conversation

as effective as we are willing to participate. Let this letter be a call to action!

So back to the questions,

The sad reality is that the monument project could end up like so many other federally attempted programs and projects.

where I listened to him describe the types of advantages that the CNMI could benefit from should the creation of a monument actually occur. I believed him then and I believe that he would expect the new administration to follow through on the implied promises repeated again and again during the public meeting.

It is my wish for the all of us in the CNMI that we can continue our effort through the Friends of the Monument to assist in the creation of OUR monument. Sure, the federal government will have a leadership role and help provide the funding, but that does not preclude the people of the CNMI getting their voices heard. We can only be

starting with, "What now?" Now, we (the people of the CNMI) have a duty and an obligation to the future children of the CNMI to become vigilant

guardians of this precious gift that we will bequeath to them. We must start with where the CNMI government and the federal government will start; from the very beginning of the process—CALL TO ACTION: Read the proclamation that declared the MTMNM.

As for, "What next?" The proclamation indicates that the Department of Interior and Department of Commerce, in collaboration with the CNMI government have three months to organize an advisory council. The second important fact is that the document, which is a public law, mandates that management regulations be accomplished within two-years of date of the proclamation. CALL TO ACTION: Follow who is being appointed and speak up if you have a sug-

gestion for the Governor.

Lastly, "When will we start to see the benefits?" The advisory council is to be comprised of five people. These individuals will more or less determine what benefits we, the people of the CNMI, will realize. CALL TO ACTION: It is during this process that we must insist that the benefits promised are guaranteed.

For more information and a chance to participate, visit <http://marianamonument.blogspot.com/>. FaceBook users are encouraged to become a fan of Friends of the Monument fan page, so that you can receive invites to meeting and stay in touch with other supporters and concerned citizens.

Laurie Peterka
As Teo



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
GENERATOR BUILDING RENOVATIONS
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-005-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for renovations and improvements to the generator building at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. These improvements consist of, but are not limited to replacement of doors and door frames, facility hardware, louver motors, air-conditioning units, renovations to living quarters and roof repairs.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to CPA projects;
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 10, 2009.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 24, 2009



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

State Rehabilitation Council

FY 09 1st General Membership Meeting

PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL.: (670) 322-6537 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: voc.rehab@saipan.com



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 09 2nd General Membership on Friday March 6, 2009 at the Azucena Room, Fiesta Resort and Spa at 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Welcome and recognition of new appointed members
- III. Review and adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and adoption of the FY'09 1st Meeting Minutes (12/19/08)
- V. Reports
 - a. OVR Director
 - b. SRC Chair
- VI. Old Business
 - a. FY 2010 State Plan Updates and Schedule of Public Forums for Saipan, Tinian, & Rota
 - b. Appointments/re-appointments of Committee Chairpersons
 - c. OVR On-Line Training Modules
 - d. Pending Vacancy Appointments
- VII. New Business
 - a. Review and Adoption of Policies for VR services
 - b. OVR/IL Share of Stimulus Package: Recovery Guidelines/Requirements & Accountability of the DSU/Stakeholders
- VIII. Consumer Forum
- IX. Announcements
- X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Magin Iginoef (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Business

Obama's budget: huge ambitions, huge obstacles

WASHINGTON (AP)—Breathtaking in its scope and ambition, President Barack Obama's agenda for the economy, health care and energy now goes to a Congress unaccustomed to resolving knotty issues and buffeted by powerful interests that oppose parts of his plan.

Perhaps the only things as high as Obama's goals are the hurdles they must clear.

While tackling the economic crisis, he is asking Congress to enact contentious measures that have been debated, but not decided, in calmer times: cut subsidies for big farms; combat global warming with a pollution

tax on industries; raise taxes on the wealthy; make big changes to health care, including lower reimbursements for Medicare and Medicaid treatments and prescription drugs.

Standing alone, any one of these proposals would trigger a brawl in Congress and fierce debates outside Washington.

Obama wants the proposals done largely in concert, as an interrelated plan to undo major elements of Ronald Reagan's conservative movement.

Obama outlined the approach in a budget proposal Thursday, a sprawling road map that will require several hard-fought pieces of legislation.

He launched his campaign for the package Saturday with a fiery, populist radio and Internet address that depicted his critics as champions of "the interests of powerful lobbyists" and "the wealthiest few."

"I realize that passing this budget won't be easy," the president said, because it "represents a threat to the status quo in Washington."

"They're gearing up for a fight," he said. "So am I."

Peanut butter recall bites smaller businesses



Betsy Sanders holds up a box of peanut butter cookies at her company, Dough-To-Go, Inc., in Santa Clara, Calif., Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009, from a batch of peanuts that were recalled. In background are cases of recalled peanut butter.

MILWAUKEE (AP)—To Betsy Sanders, the nationwide salmonella outbreak tied to peanut butter has been a hurricane. Her tiny cookie dough business is the debris.

Reimbursing customers for recalled products has already cost her Dough-To-Go Inc. business as much as \$7,000, she says—a big chunk for a company that turned little profit last year. She also has 2,500 pounds of peanut butter that she can't use because it came from Peanut Corp. of America—the company that was the source of

the outbreak and that has since filed for bankruptcy protection.

"We're the victim, too," said Sanders, who started the business off an idea her son had at age 12. "We've done nothing wrong and we're doing everything we can to make sure everyone's safe."

With at least nine deaths suspected of being tied to the outbreak, hundreds of people sickened and thousands of products recalled, companies from name brands like Kellogg Co. down to small ones like Dough-To-Go have been affected. But while

big companies have equally large public relations departments, smaller ones have limited budgets and fewer ways to cope.

The timing could hardly be worse, as the recession has already crimped how much people are spending.

Sanders, who has run the Santa Clara, Calif.-based business for 26 years with her son, said she's worried about the half of her sales—which reached a total of \$1.7 million last year—that come from school groups like the PTA or marching bands for fundraisers that help pay for

uniforms and school trips.

The peak selling season for that starts next month. But parents could be leery of buying anything at all with peanut butter.

The outbreak has already forced the maker of Detour energy bars, Forward Foods LLC, to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. The Minden, Nev.-based company plans to stay in business but needs money to pay to replace recalled products.

Meanwhile, even companies that didn't have to recall products still have plenty to worry about.

Berkshire has worst year, Buffett still optimistic

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Warren Buffett remains optimistic about the prospects for his company and the nation even though Berkshire Hathaway Inc. turned in its worst performance in 2008 and the widely-followed investor says the economy will likely remain a mess beyond this year.

Buffett used his annual letter Saturday to reassure shareholders that the Omaha-based insurance and investment company has the financial strength needed to withstand the current turmoil and improve after the worst showing of Buffett's 44 years as chairman and CEO.

Buffett wrote he's certain "the

economy will be in shambles throughout 2009—and, for that matter, probably well beyond—but that conclusion does not tell us whether the stock market will rise or fall."

In between the news of Berkshire's sharply lower profit and a thorough explanation of its largely unrealized \$7.5 billion investment and derivative losses, Buffett offered a hopeful view of the nation's future.

He said America has faced bigger economic challenges in the past, including two World

Wars and the Great Depression.

"Though the path has not been smooth, our economic system has worked extraordinarily well over time," Buffett wrote.

"It has unleashed human potential as no other system has, and it will continue to do so. America's best days lie ahead."

Buffett's letter appeared to mollify the concerns of many who follow the company, but it's not yet clear whether that will help Berkshire's Class A stock extend its rebound from the new five-year low it set last Monday at

\$73,500. On Friday, it closed up \$250 at \$78,600.

"If anything, I feel better than I did before I read it," Morningstar analyst Bill Bergman said. Berkshire's results could have easily been worse, he said.

But Buffett estimates Berkshire's book value—assets minus liabilities—declined 9.6 percent to \$70,530 per share in 2008—the biggest drop since he took control of the company in 1965. Berkshire's book value declined only one other time under Buffett, and that was a 6.2 percent drop in 2001 when insurance losses related to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks hurt results.



Buffett

Ski resorts toeing green's bottom line

HANCOCK, Mass. (AP)—Brian Fairbank had tried just about everything to cut the costs of running his Jiminy Peak ski resort: he used recycled motor oil to heat its mountain operations center, developed more efficient snow guns, captured heat generated by snowmaking machines, even installed waterless toilets.

Still his annual electric bill hit \$635,000.

So Fairbank decided to do what no ski resort owner had done: install a giant windmill to make his own power.

Other ski resorts, smarting from criticism over soaring energy and water use as well as their impact on fragile ecosystems, are now watching Jiminy's 386-foot, \$3.9 mil-

lion turbine to see if it might work elsewhere.

The ski industry has pushed to redefine its image, with resorts switching to more environmentally friendly power and buying renewable energy credits to offset greenhouse gas emissions.

The industry is trying to turn profits while confronting the prospects of snow retreating to higher altitudes, later snowfalls and earlier snow melts.

In 2006, Vail Resorts took the lead by purchasing nearly 152,000 megawatt hours of wind energy credits to offset all of its annual power consumption at its five ski areas and other businesses, making it one of the largest corporate users in the nation.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

New UBS CEO sees changes to Swiss banking secrecy

ZURICH (AP)—The new chief executive of UBS AG says Switzerland should consider changing its banking secrecy laws so they no longer protect suspected tax evaders, according to an interview published Saturday. Oswald Gruebel told twice-weekly newspaper Finanz und Wirtschaft that Switzerland's banking secrecy laws need to be changed in order to ease the political pressure other countries are putting on the small Alpine nation. Germany, Britain and the United States have demanded that Switzerland open itself up to foreign tax investigations. UBS is currently the subject of a major U.S. probe into whether it conspired to defraud the U.S. government of taxes owed by thousands of American clients. "It's questionable, whether we can continue to hide tax evaders behind banking secrecy," Gruebel told Finanz und Wirtschaft.

Tentative 3-year deal with SWA transport workers

DALLAS (AP)—Southwest Airlines says it has a tentative three-year contract agreement with the Transport Workers Union. The Dallas-based discount carrier announced the tentative deal Friday night. The agreement with workers in ramp operations and provisioning, plus freight agents, will be submitted to union members for approval. TWU Local 555 represents nearly 7,780 Southwest workers. Southwest Airlines Co. says the new agreement would run through June 2011. The current contract began amendable on June 30, 2008. Contract talks began early last year.

Bolivia pins hopes on lithium, electric vehicles

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—To Bolivia's president, it's the great silvery-white hope. Lithium, the lightest metal. Half the density of water. Used in cell phone, laptop and iPod batteries, and in the years to come, many thousands of electric and hybrid vehicles propelling humanity into a cleaner energy future. "Lithium is the hope not just for Bolivia but for all inhabitants of the planet," President Evo Morales said before meeting in Paris last month with Bolloré Group, one of several companies vying to extract the metal from remote salt flats in the poor landlocked nation. Bolivia has about half the world's proven lithium reserves, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, and Morales says he's ready to sink some \$200 million into mining it. He just needs the right partner.

Nation

Obama challenges lobbyists to legislative duel

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama challenged the nation's vested interests to a legislative duel Saturday, saying he will fight to change health care, energy and education in dramatic ways that will upset the status quo.

"The system we have now might work for the powerful and well-connected interests that have run Washington for far too long," Obama said in his weekly radio and video address. "But I don't. I work for the American people."

He said the ambitious budget plan he presented Thursday will help millions of people, but only if Congress overcomes resistance from deep-pocket lobbies.

"I know these steps won't sit well with the special interests and lobbyists who are invested in the old way of doing business, and I know they're gearing up for a fight," Obama said, using tough-guy language reminiscent of his predecessor, George W. Bush. "My message to them is this: So am I."

The bring-it-on tone under-

scored Obama's combative side as he prepares for a drawn-out battle over his tax and spending proposals. Sometimes he uses more conciliatory language and stresses the need for bipartisanship. Often he favors lofty, inspirational phrases.

On Saturday, he was a full-throated populist, casting himself as the people's champion confronting special interest groups that care more about themselves and the wealthy than about the average American.

Some analysts say Obama's proposals are almost radical. But he said all of them were included in his campaign promises. "It is the change the American people voted for in November," he said.



President Barack Obama speaks about combat troop levels in Iraq as he addresses military personnel at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Friday, Feb. 27, 2009. AP

Airliner crash shattered lives, united a community

CLARENCE, N.Y. (AP)—Natasha Marciano holds her breath when planes fly overhead on approach to Buffalo's airport. Matthew Doherty says he's still "somewhat in shock" after watching from his bedroom window as a commuter plane crashed and burned.

Cheryl Stevens hopes a cleaning service can rid her house of the stubborn smell of smoke. And Joseph and Nicole McGreevy have cracked windows to repair.

After two weeks, these are among the lingering effects of the Feb. 12 crash of Continental Flight 3407, which fell squarely on a house on Long Street in this Buffalo suburb.

But many say the that shattered the neighborhood also strengthened the community.

The strengthening began the first night, when volunteers and residents converged to form a makeshift emergency management center at Town Hall, and it continues now as the 200-year-old town returns to everyday life.

"Neighbors opened their doors to each other. Folks became family instantly," said Stevens, who lives across the street from the house where the plane crashed, killing all 49 people on board and her neighbor, Doug Wielinski.

School Superintendent Thomas Coseo recounted a meeting held at the high school a few days after the crash to update the public about things like road closures and counseling services. Among the 200 who attended were some of the families who evacuated pine tree-shaded Long Street.

Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius tapped to lead HHS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius is President Barack Obama's choice for secretary of health and human services, a White House source said Saturday.

The source, who was not authorized to speak on the record, said Obama will formally announce the nomination on Monday.

The Sebelius pick caps a

week in which Obama underscored his resolve to pass a major health care overhaul this year. He issued a challenge to Congress in his speech Tuesday, and followed up Thursday with a budget that requested an eye-popping \$634 billion over 10 years, which the administration called a "down payment" on coverage for all. This week,

Obama will host lawmakers of both parties and representatives of major interest groups, from insurers to drug companies to consumers, at a White House summit on health care reform.

Sebelius, 60, is seen as a solid choice to head HHS because as a governor responsible for the Medicaid program in Kansas, she faced the pressure of rising health

care costs directly, and saw how hard it is to expand coverage, particularly in bad economic times. She is also familiar with the insurance industry, a key interest group in the health care debate. Before becoming governor, she served as insurance commissioner, and her fellow state commissioners selected her to be national president of their association.

Mom: Deployment leaves no one to care for kids

DAVIDSON, N.C. (AP)—When Lisa Pagan reports for duty Sunday, four long years after she was honorably discharged from the Army, she'll arrive with more than her old uniform. She's bringing her kids, too.

"I have to bring them with me," she said. "I don't have a choice."

Pagan is among thousands of former service members who have left active duty since the Sept. 11 attacks, only to later receive orders to return to service. They're not in training, they're not getting a Defense Department salary, but as long as they have time left on their original enlistment contracts,

they're on "individual ready reserve" status—eligible to be recalled at any time.

Soldiers can appeal, and some have won permission to remain in civilian life. Pagan filed several appeals, arguing that because her husband travels for business, no one else can take care of her kids. All

were rejected, leaving Pagan with what she says is a choice between deploying to Iraq and abandoning her family, or refusing her orders and potentially facing charges.

Then she hit on the idea of showing up Sunday at Fort Benning, Ga., with her children in tow.



ACROSS THE NATION

Ky. Army officer gets 25 years for detainee murder

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP)—An Army officer was sentenced to 25 years in prison by a military jury Saturday for shooting and killing an Iraqi detainee during an interrogation. First Lt. Michael Behenna of Edmond, Okla., was convicted a day earlier of murder and assault, but acquitted of making a false statement. He had faced up to life in prison. "We are disappointed at the jury's verdict and the sentence," Behenna's attorney Jack Zimmermann said. Zimmermann said he has filed a motion for a mistrial, claiming prosecutors withheld evidence that could help Behenna's defense. The judge has scheduled arguments on the motion Monday, Zimmermann said. Behenna testified he was trying to defend himself when he shot Ali Mansour Mohammed and that the detainee reached for the officer's gun in a secluded railroad culvert near Beiji, Iraq, in May. Prosecutors said the detainee was defenseless against Behenna and the officer's threats and other actions showed he had planned to kill the man.

Lawyer says NYC immigrant killing not a hate crime

NEW YORK (AP)—A lawyer for one of two men accused of murdering an Ecuadorean immigrant in a hate crime said Saturday his client acted in self-defense, believing the victim was reaching for a gun during a scuffle. Keith Phoenix, 28, was being held without bail after his arraignment Saturday on a charge of second-degree murder as a hate crime. He did not enter a plea. Phoenix and co-defendant Hakim Scott, 25, are accused of shouting anti-Hispanic and anti-gay slurs as Jose Sucuzhanay and his brother walked arm in arm to keep warm on Dec. 7 in Brooklyn. Police said Scott hit Sucuzhanay with a beer bottle, and Phoenix beat him with an aluminum baseball bat. Phoenix's lawyer, Jay Schwitzman, said his client and Scott were sitting in Phoenix's SUV when Sucuzhanay (pronounced Suh-COO'-chen-eye) and his brother kicked the vehicle. Scott then began fighting with the brothers, Schwitzman said.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
HUMAN RESOURCES

Job Vacancy Re-Announcement

Job Vacancy No. 09-007 Opening Date: 02/23/09
Closing Date: 03/06/09

LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Laboratory Manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. Collects field samples at various stations and checkpoints for water and wastewater operations. Performs routine analysis on samples to ensure samples meet chemistry or microbiological parameters as determined by the EPA. Mixes media for chemistry titration analysis; calculates chemical reagent standardizations for chemical titration results. Cleans laboratory to include washing glassware and other laboratory materials. Maintains records of laboratory operations. Responds to customer or complaints from the general public. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION, WATER LABORATORY, SAIPAN

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION: High School diploma or equivalent and three years work experience, laboratory experienced is preferred. Knowledge of: Mathematics; Basic knowledge of chemicals; Safety procedures. Skills in: Collecting samples; Performing routine analysis; Preparing media; Following laboratory procedures; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. CNMI Driver's License. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Application may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor or the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. Failure to provide required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

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RECRUITMENT FOR ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Administrator. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Zoning Administrator manages the Zoning Office which is responsible for processing permit inquiries and applications, maintaining record and data systems, inspecting and enforcing compliance, interpreting the Saipan Zoning Law, educating the public, staffing the Zoning Board, coordinating with other agencies, preparing updates to the Saipan Zoning Law and Board Regulations, preparing budgets and tracking expenditures, and preparing reports and grant applications (see Section 310 of the Saipan Zoning Law at www.zoning.gov.mp).

The Saipan Zoning Law of 2007 became effective on February 1, 2008. Since then, the Zoning Office has processed almost 3,000 inquiries and zoning permits. There is strong political and public support for the zoning program and a high level of voluntary compliance. The Zoning Board is committed to professionally administering the Law; maintaining close contact with elected officials, the public, other agencies and the business community; and adapting the Law to changing circumstances.

The minimum requirements for the position are a baccalaureate degree, but preferably a graduate degree, in planning or a related field, and five years of progressive experience in land use planning, comprehensive planning, or land use administration (CNMI Zoning Code § 7222). The maximum salary is \$50,000. Health and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp.

Application submittals should be addressed to Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator, and must be received at the Zoning Office by March 27, 2009. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, US mail or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application for Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or IRs.

Send submittals to: E-mail: staff@zoning.gov.mp. FAX: 670-234-9666. US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA. Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan

Asia

ASEAN suffers blow on human rights

CHA-AM, Thailand (AP)—Southeast Asian leaders wrap up a summit Sunday they hoped would highlight their championship of human rights, but instead suffered a setback when military-ruled Myanmar and Cambodia refused to talk to two pro-democracy activists.

The prominent activists were barred from a meeting Saturday on human rights in the region, after the leaders of the two countries threatened to walk out. The activists had been selected as delegates for their countries.

The two-day summit of the 10-nation bloc ends Sunday with a general declaration and a separate document on the region's economy as it faces the global financial crisis.

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Scot Marciel called Saturday's incident "unfortunate," and human rights advocates said it again proved Myanmar, also known as Burma, would continue to hamstring the Association of Southeast Asian Nations if it remained a member.

ASEAN, which encompasses a region of more than 500 million people, includes two communist regimes, two constitutional monarchies, a military dictatorship and



In this photo released by the Royal Thai Palace, leaders and top officials from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, are seen with Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, front row 3rd left, Queen Sirikit, front row 2nd right, and Princess Sirindhorn, back row 6th left, at Klai Kangwot Palace in Hua Hin, southern Thailand Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009. Back row, from left, Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, unidentified, Malaysia's Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen, Sirindhorn, Laos' Prime Minister Bouasone Bouphavanh, Myanmar's Prime Minister Thein Sein, Thailand's Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, Pimpen Vejjajiva, ASEAN Secretariat Surin Pitsuwan, and unidentified. Front row, from left, Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, King, Queen, and Philippines' President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

fledgling democracies.

The meeting went ahead without the two pro-democracy delegates—Khin Ohnmar, a prominent Myanmar activist awarded Sweden's Anna Lindh human rights prize last year, and Pen Somony from the Cambodia Volunteers for Civil Society.

The incident clearly displeased the host organizers, but Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva did not directly address it in his opening address. He told reporters that ASEAN would "try to ensure that there is civil society participation" in its future work.

"We will take gradual steps and encourage a wider participation," he said.

The summit was intended to focus on measures to confront the global financial crisis as well as economic, political and security integration, but human rights issues took the spotlight.

On Friday, delegates lauded a forthcoming ASEAN human rights body to promote fundamental freedoms as a landmark event in the group's 42-year history. However, critics noted that the body, expected to begin functioning later this year, would lack power to punish violators such as Myanmar with expulsion or sanctions.

2 months into 2009, US deaths spike in Afghanistan

KABUL (AP)—U.S. deaths in Afghanistan increased threefold during the first two months of 2009 compared with the same period last year, after thousands more troops deployed and commanders ramped up winter operations against an increasingly violent insurgency.

As troops pour into the country and violence rises, another sobering measure has also increased: More Afghan civilians are dying in U.S. and allied operations than at the hands of the Taliban, according to a count by The Associated Press. In the first two months of the year, U.S., NATO or Afghan forces have killed 100 civilians, while militants have killed 60.

Bangladesh says 72 still missing after mutiny

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Bangladesh's military said 72 officers were still missing Saturday after a two-day mutiny by border guards in which at least 76 people died. The government pledged a full investigation as it swiftly moved to restore confidence and reassert control.

Firefighters were still searching shallow graves and sewers at the border guards' headquarters in the capital, Dhaka, where the bodies of senior officers were hurriedly dumped by the mu-

President Barack Obama recently announced the deployment of 17,000 additional troops to bolster 38,000 already in the country, increasing the U.S. focus on Afghanistan while a drawdown begins in Iraq. The latest casualty toll among U.S. forces could portend a deadlier year in Afghanistan than the U.S. military has experienced since the Taliban's ouster in 2001.

"I think that because you are going to see that additional engagement, there is a risk of greater additional casualties in the short term, just as there was in Iraq," Obama told the Pentagon Channel on Friday from Camp Lejeune, N.C. "That is something we will have

to monitor very carefully."

Twenty-nine U.S. troops died in Afghanistan the first two months of 2009—compared with eight Americans in the first two months of 2008.

Part of the increase is due to the influx of troops. In early 2008 there were about 27,000 forces in the country, some 10,000 fewer than today.

But U.S. troops are also operating in new, dangerous areas. A brigade of 10th Mountain Division soldiers deployed to two insurgent-heavy provinces outside Kabul in January—Wardak and Logar. And American forces are increasingly operating in Taliban heartland in the south.

"This barbaric incident has caused much anger among the soldiers, which will be quelled by a thorough investigation, a trial of the killers and their proper punishment," Hossain told reporters.

The insurrection apparently erupted over the guards' long-standing complaints that their pay hasn't kept pace with soldiers in the army—anger aggravated by the rise in food prices that has accompanied the global economic crisis. The guards earn about \$100 a month.

tineers. Workers also scoured nearby areas, including a pond, in an intense search for more victims.

Among the dead was Maj. Gen. Shakil Ahmed, commander of the Bangladesh Rifles border force, and a woman that authorities believed was his wife.

Army spokesman Brig. Gen. Mahmud Hossain said at least 33 officers survived the carnage but 72 were still unaccounted for.

Pakistan says Taliban beaten back in border region

KHAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan has beaten the Taliban in a major stronghold close to the Afghan border, is close to victory in another and expects to pacify most of the remaining tribal areas before the end of the year, commanders said Saturday.

The upbeat assessment of conditions in the arid, mountainous regions of Bajur and Mohmand follows international criticism of Pakistan for accepting a ceasefire with militants behind a bloody campaign in Swat Valley, just next to the tribal regions.

Many analysts also fear that growing political turmoil between the government and opposition could distract attention from the fight against al-Qaida and the Taliban just as Washington wants more concerted action.

The United States and independent analysts have praised the offensive in Bajur, saying it has helped stem the passage of militants from Pakistan into Afghanistan, where violence against American and NATO troops is running at its highest level since the U.S. invasion in 2001.

Pakistan's tribal regions are believed to be a likely hiding place for Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaida leaders. Foreign governments fear extremists there could be plotting attacks on the West.

Maj. Gen. Tariq Khan, commander of the paramilitary Frontier Corps, said the insurgency had been "dismantled" in Bajur after six months of battles between well-armed militants and soldiers backed by tanks and helicopter gunships.

He said 1,600 militants had been killed and 150 civilians had died. Both figures were impossible to verify independently.

"Their resistance has broken down. We control the roads," he told reporters flown to the northwestern region by helicopter. "They have lost."

Col. Saif Ullah, commander in the neighboring region of Mohmand, said troops had repelled insurgents from most of the territory and it would soon be cleared.

"There are no more no-go areas. The militants are running away," he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

SKorea's Lee urges NKorea to resume talks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president urged North Korea on Sunday to quickly return to stalled disarmament talks, saying engagement with the international community will serve its national interests better than missiles and nuclear weapons. Tension between the two Koreas has run high since conservative, pro-U.S. President Lee Myung-bak took office in Seoul one year ago. It has further intensified

in recent weeks amid reports the North plans to test-fire a long-range missile. Pyongyang cut off ties with Seoul and halted joint projects in protest of Lee's hardline approach, which includes suspension of his liberal predecessors' policy of sending unconditional aid to the North.

Wen warns economic crisis spreading in China

BEIJING (AP)—Premier Wen Jiabao warned that the impact of the global

financial crisis was still spreading in China and the country faces the long and arduous task of combating its effects. The official Xinhua News Agency quoted Wen as saying Saturday that China "must strengthen confidence in the face of the crisis and be ready to take firmer and stronger actions when necessary." He did not go into specifics. China is one of the only major economies still growing, though it has slowed. Growth fell to a seven-year low of 6.8 percent in the final quarter

of 2008 compared with the same time a year earlier.

Malaysia to restore 'Allah' ban for Christians

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The Malaysian government will issue a new decree restoring a ban on Christian publications using the word "Allah" to refer to God, officials said Sunday. Home Affairs Minister Syed Hamid Albar said a Feb. 16 decree that let Christian publications use the word

as long as they specified the material was not for Muslims was a mistake, the national Bernama news agency reported. The about-turn came after Islamic groups slammed the government and warned that even conditional use of the word by Christians would anger Muslims in the largely Islamic country. A senior ministry official confirmed Syed Hamid's comments, saying there were "interpretation mistakes" in the Feb. 16 decree that led to the confusion.

World

Emergency plane landing in Romania; all 51 safe

TIMISOARA, Romania (AP)—A Romanian plane carrying 51 people made a safe emergency landing in western Romania and all the occupants escaped injury, officials said.

The Carpatair flight's front landing gear became stuck and the plane circled Timisoara International Airport for almost two hours Saturday, using up its fuel to avoid a potential fire before it landed on a 200-yard (200-meter) long bed of foam laid out by firefighters, offi-

cials said.

One of the pilots later said they were about six miles (10 kilometers) from the airport when they discovered they had a problem with the landing gear, and alerted the aviation authorities.

"We did our job without feeling like heroes," Moldovan pilot Iurie Oleacov told reporters. "We weren't scared, we are trained for these kinds of situations." But Oleacov, 37, said he had never encoun-

tered this situation outside of training sessions.

"All the passengers are OK. They were calm," he added.

In a tape-recorded conversation in English between the pilot and an operator in the control tower, the operator says the plane could land in 10 minutes. The pilot responds that the plane is running out of fuel and needs to land in five minutes. He is given the OK.

The company said Oleacov and the other Moldovan pilot,

Leonid Babischi, 47, were highly experienced.

"The plane came down on the side wheels; it braked sharply and at a low speed it came on its front belly, while the front landing gear remained stuck," Dan Andrei, the airline's vice president, said.

At least 10 ambulances and

three fire engines were waiting for the stricken plane when it landed, the emergency department said.

The Saab 2000 aircraft was carrying 47 passengers and four crew members on its flight from the Moldovan capital, Chisinau, to Timisoara, airport spokeswoman Carmen Stoica said.

Romanian border police, who deal with international customs, said the plane was carrying 11, Romanians, 23 Moldovans, nine Italians, two Greeks and two Germans. The crew is Moldovan.

Timisoara ambulance chief Iancu Leonida said no one was hurt, but people were very frightened.

Leaving Iraq: Shift to south, exit through desert

BAGHDAD (AP)—The U.S. military map in Iraq in early 2010: Marines are leaving the western desert, Army units are in the former British zone in the south and the overall mission is coalescing around air and logistics hubs in central and northern Iraq.

Meanwhile, commanders will be shifting their attention to helping Iraqi forces take full control of their own security.

The Pentagon has not released the full details of President Barack Obama's plan to end America's combat role in Iraq by Aug. 31 of next year, but the broad contours are taking shape.

Statements from military officials, U.S. government reports and interviews by The Associated Press with Iraqi and U.S. planners offer a wide-angle

view of the expected American formation in Iraq when the pull-out quickens early next year.

Between 35,000 and 50,000 soldiers are expected to remain in a transition period before all troops must leave by the end of 2011 under a joint pact. In his speech Friday, Obama outlined the roles ahead.

"Training, equipping, and advising Iraqi security forces as long as they remain nonsectarian; conducting targeted counterterrorism missions, and protecting our ongoing civilian and military efforts within Iraq," he said at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

There should be little immediate change in the American presence in 2009.

The bulk of the current 138,000 U.S. troops are expect-

ed to remain until Iraq's national elections scheduled for late this year. Maintaining security for the balloting is considered a top priority by the top U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. Ray Odierno, and other high-ranking Pentagon officials.

Then the pullout will accelerate.

The first significant shift could be with the 22,000 Marines in Anbar province, a broad wedge of western desert where insurgents once held sway over key cities such as Fallujah and Ramadi.

The Marines have already tested exit routes through Jordan with plans for a full-scale exodus during the "2010 calendar year," said Terry Moores, deputy assistant chief of staff for logistics for Marine Corps Central Command.

A third of the stolen money has been recovered. Sgt. Alan Roughneen said five men and a woman were arrested in Phibsborough, and one man was arrested in the car. Authorities also seized six cars, checking to see if they were used to move hostages or money. On Friday, six armed, masked men stormed into the rural home of Bank of Ireland worker Shane Travers. They tied up his partner, her 5-year-old son and her mother, and told Travers they would be killed unless he cooperated.

Iraq: Oil prices may drag budget lower

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's parliament pushed back voting Saturday on this year's budget and could be forced to make further cuts because of falling oil prices. The latest delay in trying to ratify the current \$64 billion budget proposal highlights the financial squeeze facing Iraq as declining oil revenues cut into reconstruction plans such as new roads and improved utilities—which the Shiite-led government hopes to use as showcases in national elections later this year. The pinch has also brought calls by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki for proposals to diversify Iraq's oil-dependent economy with expansion of agriculture and other trade. But Iraq's plans for this year have been dragged down along with the price of oil, which is now less than \$45 a barrel after hitting highs last summer of \$150 a barrel. A Sunni lawmaker, Ayad al-Samarraie, predicted the budget will face more trimming after several previous cuts from its original \$79 billion. The current budget is based on a \$50 a barrel projection.

WORLD BRIEFS

Top Syria-based Hamas leader secretly visits Gaza

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—A top Syria-based Hamas leader secretly crossed into Gaza for his first visit in decades, an Egyptian security official on the border said Saturday. Moussa Abu Marzouk entered the Gaza Strip late on Thursday with three other Hamas officials before returning to Egypt the following day, the official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press. Hamas' leadership is divided between the Gaza Strip, which the group rules, and its top officials living in Damascus. Abu Marzouk is number two in the Hamas hierarchy. He was born in Gaza and grew up in a refugee camp in the southern part of the strip, but hasn't been back in several decades. The purpose of his visit was unknown. Hamas denied he entered Gaza and Abu Marzouk's Gaza relatives say they had not seen him. Hamas leadership has been holding talks in Cairo seeking reconciliation with its Fatah rival. Both sides are working toward forming a unity government but have been unable to bridge their gaps.

Dublin cops arrest 7 after historic bank heist

DUBLIN (AP)—Police recovered millions in stolen cash and interrogated seven suspected robbers Saturday, a day after a gang took a bank employee's family hostage and forced him to rob his own branch. Police said that shortly before midnight they raided a house in the inner north Dublin district of Phibsborough and stopped a car on a highway ringing Dublin.

Experts trying to decipher ancient language

ALMODOVAR, Portugal (AP)—When archaeologists on a dig in southern Portugal last year flipped over a heavy chunk of slate and saw writing not used for more than 2,500 years, they were elated.

The enigmatic pattern of inscribed symbols curled symmetrically around the upper part of the rough-edged, yellowish stone tablet and coiled into the middle in a decorative style typical of an extinct Iberian language called Southwest Script.

"We didn't break into applause, but almost," says Amílcar Guerra, a University of

Lisbon lecturer overseeing the excavation. "It's an extraordinary thing."

For more than two centuries, scientists have tried to decipher Southwest Script, believed to be the peninsula's oldest written tongue and, along with Etruscan from modern-day Italy, one of Europe's first. The stone tablet features 86 characters and provides the longest-running text of the Iron Age language ever found.

About 90 slate tablets bearing the ancient inscriptions have been recovered, most of them incomplete. Almost all were scattered across southern Por-

tugal, though a handful turned up in the neighboring Spanish region of Andalusia.

Some of the letters look like squiggles. Others are like crossed sticks. One resembles the number four and another recalls a bow-tie. They were carefully scored into the slate. The text is always a running script, with unseparated words which usually read from right to left.

The first attempts to interpret this writing date from the 18th century. It aroused the curiosity of a bishop whose diocese encompassed this region where the earth keeps coughing up new fragments.



A stone tablet engraved with symbols at least 2,500 years old is seen at the Southwest Script Museum on Feb. 5, 2009 in Almodovar, southern Portugal.

Focus in Hariri assassination shifts to courtroom

BEIRUT (AP)—Investigators have pored over evidence for four years—a human tooth found at the bombing site, a suicide truck that was stolen in Japan and made its way to Lebanon, reams of phone records and hundreds of interviews.

Now the focus in one of the Mideast's most dramatic political assassinations is shifting to prosecution, with the convening Sunday of an international tribunal on the slaying of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

Despite the start of proceedings in the Netherlands, it is still not known who will be accused in the suicide truck bombing that killed Hariri and 22 other people on a seaside street in

Beirut on Feb. 14, 2005.

Also unknown is the most politically explosive question—whether the proceedings will implicate Syria's government, which many Lebanese believe was behind the murder of a man who broke with Syria to oppose its long military dominance of Lebanon. Syria has denied involvement.

Most likely the first defendants before the court will be four pro-Syria generals who led Lebanon's police, intelligence service and an elite army unit at the time of the assassination. They are the only people in custody, though they have not been formally charged.

Daniel Bellemare, the Ca-

nadian investigator who will prosecute the case, was quoted by the pan-Arab Al-Arabiya TV channel late Saturday as saying he will request the transfer of the officers to the custody of the court in the Netherlands.

He did not give a time frame. But Robin Vincent, the tribunal's registrar, has said the prosecutor has 60 days from the formal opening on Sunday to request suspects be turned over for trial.

Some in Lebanon doubt the court will ever bring out the full truth, believing it might avoid digging deep to ensure Syria does not react by stirring up trouble in Lebanon and other parts of the region.

Health & Fitness

Zumba workout is a hip way to get fit

By SUSAN CAMPBELL
(C) 2009, THE HARTFORD COURANT

Instructor Danielle Rich leads a Zumba class at the Taking Care Center in Hartford, Conn.
HARTFORD COURANT



cosm of the exuberant dance/workout's popularity. Zumba (pronounced ZOOM-buh) has gained devotees in China, Italy and Spain.

And everywhere, its slogan is: "Ditch the workout, join the party."

Make that the "sweaty party." By some counts, reasonably committed

participants can burn 500 calories in an hourlong class, said Danielle Rich, a Zumba instructor at the Taking Care Center in downtown Hartford, Conn. She has been teaching since October.

"I'm a dancer, so I was thinking, 'I don't really know if I'm going to like this,' but I really like the dance-fitness

thing," Rich said. "I think a lot of people feel silly at first, but that's what makes people smile. I love watching the looks on the faces of the people in class. That's what makes the class for me. I know they're having a good time."

Participants forget they're working out. It's not a boring half-hour on an el-

liptical machine or a mindless moment on a stair-stepping machine. And Zumba, a Colombian expression for moving fast and having fun, invites participants to move at their own pace.

The workout method was born of desperation in the mid-1990s when founder and fitness instructor Alberto "Beto" Perez arrived at an aerobics class in his native Colombia without his music. Instead, he rooted around in his car and played for his class the Latin music he found there, and he improvised energetic steps inspired by salsa, merengue, reg-



A participant in a Zumba class stretches toward the end of the mid-day class at the Taking Care Center in Hartford, Conn. Zumba is an aerobic exercise workout that combines Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves.

gaeton and hip-hop, among other musical styles. As Zumba's popularity grew, more work came Perez's way, including choreographing some dances for performer Shakira ("Hips Don't Lie").

We are five minutes into class when I realize that my feet do not appear to be attached to my brain.

My brain wants so badly to follow the lead of the instructors of my first-ever Zumba fitness class, but my feet want to march stiffly in place. I am pretty sure what I am doing is not Zumba-quality work.

No matter. All around me, women (it's all women in this class, although this is emphatically not a gender-specific workout) are moving and smiling and looking like they've been doing this forever—which is impossible, because Zumba, a dance/exercise regimen done to a mix of Latin and international music, has been in this country slightly more than 10 years. It arrived at Bodyworks Fitness Center in Marlborough, Conn., just last month, and there has been enough interest to add three classes, said gym owner Janice Flanigan.

And Marlborough is only a micro-



Regina Waters, of Windsor, Conn., right, works up a sweat in a Zumba class at the Taking Care Center in Hartford, Conn., during her lunch hour.

Whooping cough still around

By LIZ ATWOOD
(C) 2009, THE BALTIMORE SUN

Whooping cough sounds like one of those diseases that only the heroines of Victorian novels get. But whooping cough, or pertussis, is a serious and sometimes fatal illness that has been on the rise in the United States in recent years, says Virginia Keane, associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and president of the Maryland chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics.

Question: What is whooping cough?

Answer: A bacterial infection caused by the bacteria *Bordetella pertussis*. This bacteria only resides in human beings. It is passed by droplets if people cough on you. It has an incubation period of seven to 10 days. It has multiple phases. It starts like a bad cold. Then it gets much worse. You can get pneumonia and encephalopathy (a brain disorder). You can get a leukemoid reaction—that's an explosion of white blood cells. Then you get in the recovery phase. The whole thing can take six to 10 weeks.

Q: Who is susceptible?

A: The people who are most susceptible are infants who haven't been immunized yet.

Q: When do children get immunized for the disease?

A: The vaccine schedule is 2, 4, 6 months, 12 to 18 months. Then before preschool. Then there's another booster dose in adolescence that we ideally give at 11 years of age. Since November 2005, it's been recommended that adults

get a booster every 10 years. It is combined with the tetanus shot.

Q: Can patients have reactions to the vaccine?

A: Until 1995, we were using a whole cell pertussis vaccine that was causing high fevers and severe irritability in children. Now that we use the acellular vaccine, which is much purer, we rarely see bad side effects.

Q: If you have had whooping cough, can you get it again?

A: Yes. Your immunity can wane.

Q: How many cases are there each year in the United States?

A: In the 1990s we saw fewer than 1,000 cases a year. In 2004, we had a little over 25,000.

Q: Why have the number of cases been on the rise?

A: We think that is because adults are acting as a reservoir for (the disease). And the number of susceptible children is growing because parents are being misled by scientifically unsupported claims that vaccines are dangerous and are choosing not to have their children vaccinated. I know they think they are doing what is right for their children, but they are wrong. They are putting their own children and others at risk of getting preventable diseases like whooping cough.

Q: What is the mortality rate for whooping cough?

A: It depends on the age group. A relatively healthy young adult is not at risk. Adults with immune deficiency might

be. The ones that are at the highest risk are young infants. If they are not treated properly, the mortality rate can be around 10 percent. It depends on your age, immune status and at what point in your disease it is diagnosed.

Q: What are the signs and symptoms of the disease?

A: It starts like a cold. But the cough gets worse and worse. You usually get a fever with it. The cough gets so bad you can't catch your breath. You can't stop, and when you try to catch your breath, it sounds like a whoop. Sometimes little children will throw up. They can turn quite blue.

Q: When should someone seek medical attention?

A: With young babies, they seem pretty sick before they get the whoop. With adults, if you have a significant cough that hasn't gone away in three weeks, you should see your doctor. There are other causes, but pertussis is the one you should get tested for and treated for.

Q: How is it treated?

A: It's treated with antibiotics like erythromycin, and recently we're using azithromycin—Z packs. But that's not approved for young infants.

Q: What is the best way to prevent whooping cough?

A: The best way to prevent it is vaccinate your children early and often, and for adults in contact with children to be vaccinated every 10 years.

Q: What percentage of the U.S. population has

received the vaccine?

A: That's a moving target. Pertussis vaccine was started in the 1940s. So most adults have had some doses of it. Since 2005, it's been recommended they get their booster.

Q: If you get a tetanus shot is the pertussis vaccine in it?

A: It should be in there. You shouldn't have to ask for it. But you should be told it is in there.

Feeling mentally tired? Maybe you should put off that run

By JEANNINE STEIN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

The end-of-the-day workout isn't the easiest thing to do, which is why many personal trainers recommend exercising in the morning.

They may be on to something—a new study from researchers at Bangor University in Wales suggests that being mentally fatigued may affect endurance exercise performance.

In the randomized crossover study (participants served as the intervention group and the control), 16 people (10 men and six women) prepared for both trials by drinking the same amount of water, sleeping for at least seven hours, abstaining from alcohol, not doing any vigorous exercise the day before the test, and eating the same breakfast before cycling. In the intervention round, participants were given a challenging 90-minute cognitive test to induce mental fatigue. During the control round, men and women watched two videos: "World Class Trains—The Venice Simplon Orient Express" and "The History of the Ferrari—The Definitive Story," chosen because watching them, apparently, encourages neutral moods and stable heart rates (we're thinking more along the lines of boredom, but

that's just us).

In both trials the participants then rode a stationary bike to the point of exhaustion, while researchers measured oxygen consumption, heart rate, cardiac output, blood lactate levels and blood pressure. Participants were asked to rate their levels of motivation and perceived exertion. As an added incentive the men and women were also offered money for the best performances on the exercise and cognitive tests.

All that brain work evidently took a toll. While mentally fatigued, cyclists stopped exercising an average 15 percent earlier. The average RPMs during cycling weren't much different in the two trials, but the time to exhaustion was significantly lower after the mental challenge compared to the control. While there were physiological changes during the trials, mental fatigue didn't greatly affect any of them. And while rates of perceived exertion increased in both trials, they were much higher in the post-cognitive test trial than in the control.

The authors argue that the study not only has implications for endurance athletes but also for the military and people with chronic fatigue syndrome. The study appears in the March issue of the *Journal of Applied Physiology*.

Life & Style

Broadcasting pioneer Paul Harvey dies at age of 90

CHICAGO (AP)—Paul Harvey, the news commentator and talk-radio pioneer whose staccato style made him one of the nation's most familiar voices, died Saturday in Arizona, according to ABC Radio Networks. He was 90.

Harvey died surrounded by family at a hospital in Phoenix, where he had a winter home, said Louis Adams, a spokesman for ABC Radio Networks, where Harvey worked for more than 50 years. No cause of death was im-

mediately available.

Harvey had been forced off the air for several months in 2001 because of a virus that weakened a vocal cord. But he returned to work in Chicago and was still active as he passed his 90th birthday. His death comes less than a year after that of his wife and longtime producer, Lynne.

"My father and mother created from thin air what one day became radio and television news," Paul Harvey Jr. said in a

Siegfried and Roy stage comeback for charity

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Illusionists Siegfried and Roy headed back to the stage for a one-night-only comeback performance Saturday, more than five years after a brutal tiger attack ended the careers of the longtime Las Vegas duo.

The charity performance was promoted as the "the final bow" for Roy Horn and Siegfried Fischbacher, the German-born showmen responsible for one of the most successful shows in Las Vegas history.

The two had been stage partners for 45 years when a 380-pound Bengal tiger named Montecore sank its teeth into Horn's neck during a live performance and dragged him offstage in front of a stunned audience.

Horn, now 64, was partially paralyzed, suffering a damaged neck artery and crushed windpipe in the October 2003 attack.

The long-running "Siegfried and Roy" show immediately went dark.

Promoters wouldn't say if the duo's big cats would be involved in the single illusion planned for Saturday night. The act was expected to last no more than 15 minutes.

"I'm sworn to secrecy," said Maureen Peckman of the Keep Memory Alive Foundation, the event's host.

The performance at the Bellagio hotel-casino was to benefit the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health. The center, which will treat brain disorders like those Horn now suffers, is set to open later this year in a building designed by architect Frank Gehry.

Siegfried and Roy's performance will air March 6 in a one-hour special on ABC's "20/20." During Horn's long rehabilitation, both men have remained devoted to their exotic habitat on the Las Vegas Strip. The Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat at The Mirage hotel-casino houses lions, tigers and leopards. Fischbacher, 69, has called it Horn's "reason to get up in the morning."

The pair have said they believe that Montecore sensed Horn was having a mini-stroke and was dragging him to safety, rather than attacking him. Animal experts have disputed that theory.

After a two-year review, federal investigators never determined what set off the tiger.



In this Nov. 16, 1988 file photo, radio commentator Paul Harvey and his wife, Lynne, hold a street sign bearing his name in Chicago. AP

statement. "So in the past year, an industry has lost its godparents and today millions have lost a friend."

Known for his resonant voice and trademark delivery of "The Rest of the Story," Harvey had been heard nationally since 1951, when he began his "News and Comment" for ABC Radio Networks.

He became a heartland icon, delivering news and commentary with a distinctive Midwestern flavor. "Stand by for news!" he told his listeners. He was credited with inventing or popularizing terms such as "skyjacker," "Reaganomics" and "guesstimate."

"Paul Harvey was one of the most gifted and beloved broad-

casters in our nation's history," ABC Radio Networks President Jim Robinson said in a statement. "We will miss our dear friend tremendously and are grateful for the many years we were so fortunate to have known him."

In 2005, Harvey was one of 14 notables chosen as recipients of the presidential Medal

of Freedom. He also was an inductee in the Radio Hall of Fame, as was Lynne.

Former President George W. Bush remembered Harvey as a "friendly and familiar voice in the lives of millions of Americans."

"His commentary entertained, enlightened, and informed," Bush said in a statement. "Laura and I are pleased to have known this fine man, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family."

Harvey composed his twice-daily news commentaries from a downtown Chicago office near Lake Michigan.

Rising at 3:30 each morning, he ate a bowl of oatmeal, then combed the news wires and spoke with editors across the country in search of succinct tales of American life for his program.

At the peak of his career, Harvey reached more than 24 million listeners on more than 1,200 radio stations and charged \$30,000 to give a speech. His syndicated column was carried by 300 newspapers.

His fans identified with his plainspoken political commentary, but critics called him an out-of-touch conservative. He was an early supporter of the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy and a longtime backer of the Vietnam War.

10th Anniversary Remembrance Cecilia Tenorio Sablan (Nan Chilang Deda)

We, the family of the late "Nan Chilang Deda" kindly invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the Tenth Death Anniversary of our dearly beloved.

Daily Mass of intention will be celebrated at San Antonio Church as follow:

March 1st	Sunday	9:00 a.m.
March 2nd	Monday	6:00 p.m.
March 3rd	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.
March 4th	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.
March 5th	Thursday	6:00 p.m.
March 6th	Friday	6:00 p.m.
March 7th	Saturday	6:00 p.m.
March 8th	Sunday	9:00 a.m.

On the last day, Monday March 9, 2009, the Eucharistic celebration will be at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at the family residence in San Antonio. Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
From the Family



In this Feb. 20, 2008 file photo, Siegfried Fischbacher, left, and Roy Horn arrive at a party following the premiere performance of Bette Midler's "The Showgirl Must Go On" at Caesar's Palace hotel and casino in Las Vegas. AP

Indian-American profile up, from politics to film

CINCINNATI (AP)—Jai Ho! The years-long wave of immigration from India is creating a rising tide of visibility for Indian-Americans in the United States.

The past few weeks have underscored their increasingly high profile: Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal gave the Republican response Tuesday night to President Barack Obama's speech to Congress, while Dr. Sanjay Gupta is under consideration to be Obama's surgeon general.

Model and cooking author Padma Lakshmi finished another "Top Chef" TV season, then became the celebrity face for a new Procter & Gamble Co. Pantene shampoo line as well as a Hardee's hamburger promotion. Anoop Desai, dubbed "Noop Dogg," drew fans with his singing on this year's "American Idol," and Aziz Ansari was in TV's medical comedy "Scrubs" before moving to a regular role in the upcoming comedy series "Parks and Recreation."

Meanwhile, Americans have embraced "Slumdog Millionaire" and the cast of the India ghetto-to-glory movie that won eight Oscars, including for Best Picture and the song "Jai Ho" ("Be Victorious"), and dominated last week's entertainment talk shows.

"It's just been amazing," Sreenath Sreenivasan, a professor and dean of student affairs for Columbia University's journalism school in New York, said of the soaring profile of Indian-Americans. "And it's only going



Bobby Jindal



Padma Lakshmi



Dr. Sanjay Gupta

The years-long wave of Indian immigration is creating a rising tide of visibility for Indian-Americans in the United States, three of whom are shown in file photos.

to grow. The more visible you get, the more acceptance you get. It's a chicken-and-egg thing."

Indian-Americans have been one of the fastest-growing and most successful immigrant groups, though Sreenivasan and other Indian-Americans are quick to point out that some Indians continue to struggle economically and socially in this country.

U.S. Census estimates two years ago showed some 2.6 million people of Indian ancestry, including immigrants and U.S.-born, a jump of nearly 1 million from 2000.

For years, they have proliferated in this country in the fields of health care, information technology and engineering, with higher education levels and incomes than national averages. And recent years have brought

more Indian heads of major U.S. companies—PepsiCo Inc.'s Indra Nooyi is among about a dozen current CEOs.

They also are making their presence felt in journalism. Gupta, a neurosurgeon and medical correspondent, and Fareed Zakaria, editor of Newsweek International, have their own weekend shows on CNN, for example.

And Gupta and Jindal demonstrate a deepening role in U.S. politics and government.

While Jindal's potential as a 2012 presidential candidate may have been set back by his widely criticized and even ridiculed TV rebuttal to Obama, Louisiana demographer and political analyst Elliott Stonecipher said the governor has good support among Republican Party leaders and conservatives.

Stonecipher thinks Jindal, only 37, is being pushed too quickly by Republicans, such as some in the South who see him as a bridge over the historically troubled waters of white-black division—particularly in a state where David Duke, a former Klan leader, was still a political force in the 1990s.

"Conservatives are pleased to find an ethnic group that is politically correct in America behind which they can gather," Stonecipher said, adding that Indian-Americans are respected for a reputation for dedication to family, work and education.

Cleveland attorney and former prosecutor Subodh Chandra ran unsuccessfully as a Democrat for attorney general of Ohio in 2006, but said he was well-received even in rural ar-

reas with no Indian population or even anyone who knew how to pronounce his name (It's Soobohd Chun-druh).

"With some people, that might be an initial obstacle, but you can very quickly demonstrate that you share their Ohio values, their American values—hard work, education," said Chandra, 41, who remembers anti-Indian backlash as a youth but says there has been increasing acceptance and understanding.

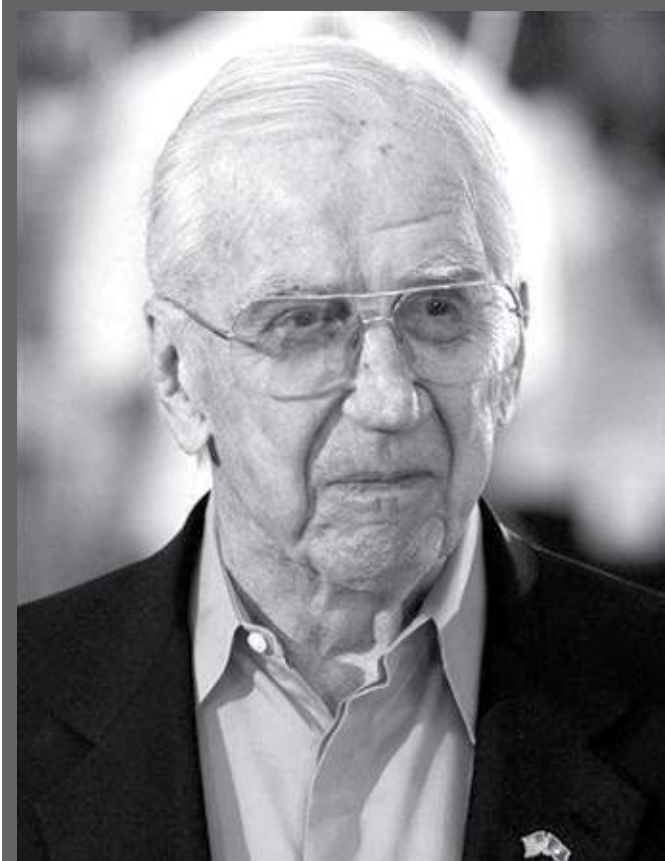
Fellow Indian-American Democrat Jay Goyal was elected to Ohio's Legislature in 2006 at age 26 and, in his second term, has already risen to

become the House's majority whip. In Maryland, Democrat Kumbar Barve is the House majority leader.

Actor Kal Penn was a campaign surrogate for Obama across the country last year and floor manager for the Virginia delegation at the Democratic national convention. Besides movies, he's a regular in "House."

And Americans will be seeing more of Lakshmi, in promotions for the new Pantene Nature Fusion products, for a Hardee's burger, and in the upcoming launch of her own jewelry line, before she returns to Bravo's "Top Chef."

Source: Ed McMahon hospitalized with bone cancer



In this July 24, 2007 file photo, Ed McMahon arrives at the premiere of *The Simpsons Movie* in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ed McMahon, former sidekick to Johnny Carson on "Tonight" and a familiar TV commercial pitchman, is hospitalized in intensive care, and a person close to him said Friday that McMahon has bone cancer.

Spokesman Howard Bragman said McMahon, 85, had been hospitalized for several weeks for treatment of pneumonia and other ailments. He declined to identify the Los Angeles facility.

"It's serious," Bragman said when asked about McMahon's condition, noting his age. But, Bragman added: "We're hopeful."

A person close to McMahon, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information, said the illnesses included bone cancer.

Bragman said McMahon's wife and family are with him and appreciate the public ex-

pressions of concern.

McMahon had broken his neck in a fall in 2007. He faced foreclosure on his home last year because he said the injury left him unable to work, but a deal was announced last December that would allow him to stay in the house.

McMahon was Carson's announcer and second banana on "Tonight" from 1962 until Carson's retirement in 1992, introducing him with a resounding "H-e-e-e-e-e-e's Johnny!" and bolstering the host with hearty laughs. (Carson died in 2005.)

McMahon also appeared in commercials for American Family Publishers' sweepstakes and had supporting roles in movies including "Fun with Dick and Jane" (1977) and "Just Write" (1997) and in TV shows including the 1997 WB sitcom "The Tom Show" with Tom Arnold.

'Plow' producers plan to file for arbitration

NEW YORK (AP)—Jeremy Piven is not off the hook yet.

The producers of "Speed-the-Plow" said Friday they will file for arbitration to settle their dispute with the actor for abruptly quitting the Broadway show after his doctor said he was suffering from mercury poisoning.

The action came after no agreement was reached Thursday in a grievance hearing requested by the producers. A panel composed of Actors' Equity and Broadway League representatives were unable to reach a required unanimous decision.

In a terse, two-sentence statement, the producers said: "The grievance went as expected yesterday. The grievance committee (made up of League and Equity representatives) did not rule for either side and we will be filing for arbitration as provided by our contract."

No date was given for the filing by lead producer Jeffrey Richards.

Samantha Mast, Piven's spokeswoman, said: "We're not aware the producers have filed anything to initiate an arbitration, but if they do so, we are confident that the producers will not prevail in arbitration, just as they did not prevail in the griev-



In this Sept. 4, 2008 file photo, actor Jeremy Piven attends a screening of the film "RocknRolla" during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto.

ance proceeding they initiated."

Under Actors' Equity rules, the arbitration will be heard by

a professional arbitrator, acceptable to both Equity and the League. He or she will be

chosen from a list of nine designated people, who will hold the hearing within 30 days of the filing and issue a decision within 30 days of that meeting.

The 43-year-old Piven, the Emmy- and Golden Globe-winning star of HBO's "Entourage," departed the production of David Mamet's satiric comedy after his physician said he had high levels of mercury in his body.

In a tearful interview with The New York Times after Thursday's hearing, Piven said his illness stemmed from eating fish twice a week for 20 years, not from consuming too much sushi, as some reports suggested.

"Speed-the-Plow" opened last October to favorable reviews and by the time the revival ended its limited engagement Feb. 22 at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre, it had recouped its \$2.26 million production costs.

Three different actors—understudy Jordan Lage, Norbert Leo Butz and William H. Macy—followed Piven in the role of movie mogul Bobby Gould. Mamet's three-character play about Hollywood glamour, sex and power, also starred Elisabeth Moss of AMC's "Mad Men" and Raul Esparza.

'Idol' finalists not fazed by lack of screen time

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Out of the first six finalists, "American Idol" viewers have seen the least of Kris Allen this season. The soulful 23-year-old crooner who left the judges feeling mixed after his rendition of Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror" said Friday that he isn't upset about his lack of screen time on the popular Fox singing competition.

"I wasn't looking for the cameras and trying to put my face in there," Allen said during a teleconference.

Despite his not-so-starring role, the twangy University of Central Arkansas student from Conway, Ark., was selected by viewer votes Thursday alongside Los Angeles natives Allison Iraheta, a 16-year-old high school student, and Adam Lambert, a 26-year-old theater actor.

Simon Cowell told Allen that the "chicks are gonna love you."

But sorry, ladies: Allen's taken.

"I've been with the same woman for the past seven years," he said.

Lambert, who wailed the Rolling Stones' "Satisfaction" and would love to tackle Led Zeppelin in the future, was thankful that "Idol" producers featured him during the audition and Hollywood Week episodes. He thought his inclusion gave the audience the "feeling like they know me."

However, he doesn't want them feeling like he's strictly a theater performer.

"I don't listen to show tunes on my downtime," he said.

Iraheta, this season's youngest finalist so far, also comes equipped with prior show business experience. She won the 2006 Telemundo contest titled "Quinceanera" after singing in both English and Spanish. Iraheta,



AP

This photo released by Fox shows Kris Allen performing in front of the judges on American Idol on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009 in Los Angeles.

who wowed the judges Wednesday with Heart's "Alone," said competing on the Telemundo competition only moderately pre-

pared her for the "Idol" spotlight.

"It helped me out with being on the stage in front of cameras a little," she said. "It's nothing compared to this."

Allen, Lambert and Iraheta join 28-year-old church music director Danny Gokey from Milwaukee, 21-year-old musician Alexis Grace from Memphis, Tenn., and 27-year-old oil rig worker Michael Sarver from Jasper, Texas, who were selected as the first three finalists last week.

Next Tuesday, 12 more semifinalists will vie for three other spots in the competition's top 12. Then, previously dismissed semifinalists will get a second chance at stardom. After the first nine finalists are selected by viewer votes next Wednesday, the judges will pick the last three finalists at the end of a special wild card round next Thursday.

Coen brothers take aim at 'clean coal' in TV ad

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Coen brothers, who won Academy Awards for "Fargo" and "No Country for Old Men," have turned their sardonic sights on the coal industry.

Joel and Ethan Coen directed a TV commercial attacking the notion that coal can be an environmentally safe way to pro-

duce electricity.

About 600 coal-burning plants supply nearly half the nation's power, but critics say coal is a major contributor to global warming.

The commercial, which began airing Thursday on cable TV channels, plays like an air freshener ad. A smiling pitch-

man extolls the virtues of a black spray can labeled "clean coal." But when a suburban housewife uses it, the can spews a black cloud that gives her family coughing fits. The ad ends with the line, "In reality, there's no such thing as clean coal."

"We were excited to be part of this important project and tell another side of the 'clean' coal story," the Coens said in a statement.

The commercial was produced by a consortium of five environmental groups called the Reality Coalition, which was

formed last year to counter promotional efforts by a coal industry trade group.

The American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity has spent \$18 million on TV commercials promoting the industry's use of pollution-control equipment and arguing that coal can be a clean, cheap and abundant fuel.

"Meeting America's growing energy demand ... is going to require the use of all energy technologies," spokesman Joe Lucas said. "Technology has made coal a cleaner energy option."

Jonas Brothers surprise fans at NY movie theater

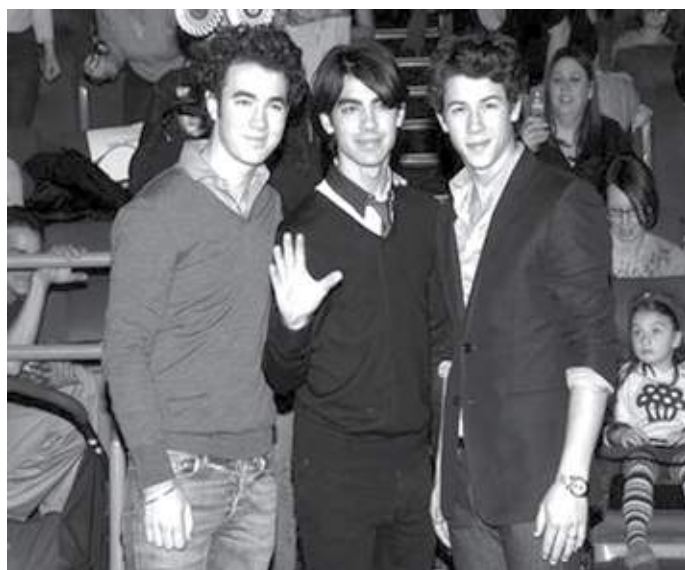
WEST NYACK, N.Y. (AP)—The Jonas Brothers have visited fans on familiar turf, making a surprise appearance at a suburban New York movie theater they frequented while growing up.

The pop stars' stop at the Palisades Center on Saturday was one of several around the country to promote their new film, "Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience."

The West Nyack appearance was something of a homecom-

ing for Joe, Kevin and Nick Jonas, raised in nearby Wyckoff, N.J. Nick Jonas said at a news conference that they often saw movies at the mall, "so the fact that we're coming back here is really, really, really cool."

The film opened Friday, capping some heady weeks for the Grammy-nominated brothers. They performed at the White House for presidential daughters Malia and Sasha Obama last month.



AP

From left, musician's Kevin Jonas, Joe Jonas and Nick Jonas make a surprise theater visit to promote their new movie "Jonas Brothers: 3D Concert Experience", in Westchester, New York, on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009.

Compatible relationships are built on respect, not argument

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a wonderful man I'll call "George" for the past 14 months. We have never had an argument or even a disagreement. We both have good jobs, like doing the same things, and we see each other every weekend. Our co-workers and family members have commented that we seem remarkably happy as a couple.

Don't get me wrong. George and I know what we like and dislike in life. We talk about things, have serious discussions and deal with whatever comes our way. But for some reason, my sister insists that by now my boyfriend and I should have had at least one good argument. She thinks it's weird that we haven't, and says we are "trying too hard" to make each other happy. She says George and I are ignoring things that could cause unhappiness.

My sister is younger, married, works full-time and has three kids. I think she may be secretly jealous of our relationship. So I ask you, Abby, DO all couples have to argue or have disagreements?

"MISS BLISS" in N.Y.C.

Dear "MISS BLISS": No, they do not. Some couples have a higher compatibility quotient than others. Intelligent, mature people do not necessarily agree on everything. However, they respect each other's right to disagree without it degenerating into an argument.

It appears that you and George recognize how lucky you are to have found each other. Whether your sister is jealous is beside the point. When you are ready to take the next step, premarital counseling—which I think is a good idea for all couples – can ensure that you and George are on the same page about the things you both think are important.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Our 10-year-old son, "Harry," is a sore loser. If we play a sport or a board game with him, he ends up in tears if he doesn't win. Sometimes he will cheat if he thinks it will help him win. He even becomes upset when his favorite NHL hockey team loses a game.

We have told Harry repeatedly that games are supposed to be fun, but he seems unable to grasp the concept. We do not know what else to do. Can you help?

HAVING NO FUN IN CANADA

DEAR HAVING NO FUN: Learning to handle and channel frustration is part of growing up. Nobody likes to lose, yet winning and losing are a part of every competition. If you catch Harry cheating, there should be a penalty, and you should let him know you are disappointed in him.

Continue to impress upon your son that the most important aspect of sportsmanship (or gamesmanship) is learning not only to be a gracious winner but also to be gracious in defeat. Tiger Woods is a glowing example of sportsmanship at its best. A cheat may win a game, but when the deed is discovered, no one respects the person. It's sad to say, but we have seen examples of that, too, in professional sports in recent years.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Why is it that men, no matter their ages, are jerks? I am a single mom and have been divorced for two years. I date occasionally, and when I do, I try to date good guys who could possibly become more.

Abby, I never get a second date! I am sweet and can carry on a conversation. I go out with them or cook for them. I just don't understand why they never give me a second chance. HURT IN ROSWELL, N.M.

DEAR HURT: Not all men are "jerks." Because you are consistently getting the same reaction from every man you date, it is time to seriously consider what you might be doing to chase them away. A good place to start would be by having a frank talk with some of your male relatives and/or platonic friends.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



AP

In this Feb. 2, 2008 file photo, directors and producers Joel Coen, left and Ethan Coen, are shown at the 2008 Producers Guild Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Bruce Willis being sued for \$4 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Bruce Willis and his production company are being sued in Los Angeles for \$4 million for



AP

A Jan. 19, 2008 file photo shows actor Bruce Willis at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

breach of contract.

The lawsuit filed Friday alleges Willis Brother Films agreed on a contract with three companies to produce the feature film "Three Stories About Joan," which Willis was to star in and direct.

The lawsuit alleges that on Sept. 29 Willis quit as director without notice in violation of the agreement.

Phone calls to Willis' publicist and attorney were not immediately returned.

Henry Gradstein, attorney for the companies suing Willis, says the courts will resolve the matter. He had no further comment.

The plaintiffs include Foresight Unlimited, Signature Entertainment Group and Three Stories Productions.

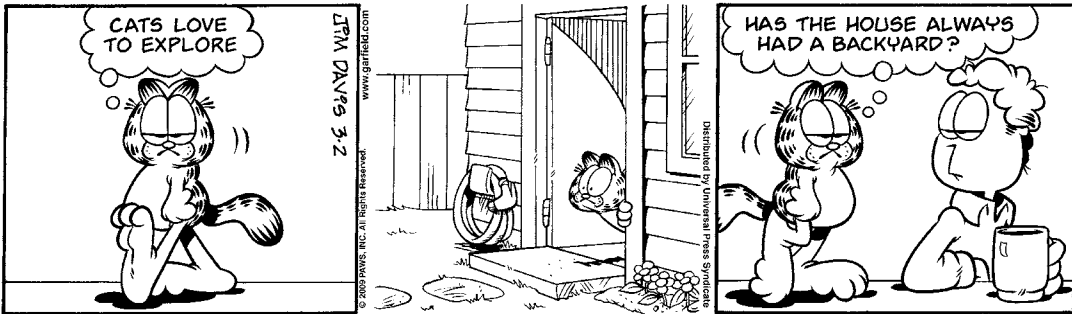
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

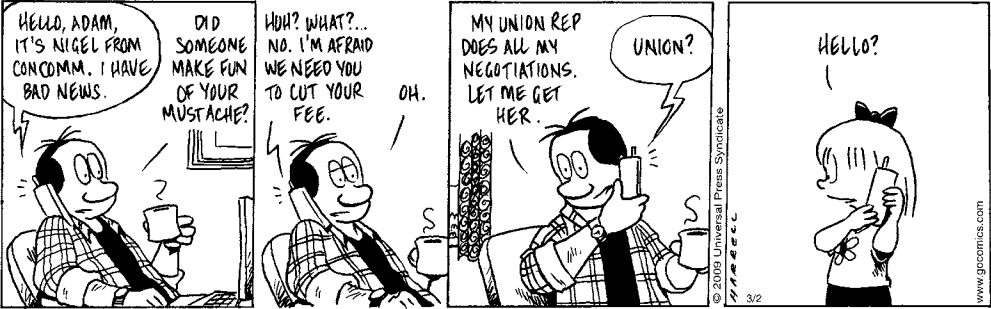


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 41 Pago 1 Incorrect 4 "Lost" network 7 Young tulip? 11 Equestrian game 13 Scrooge's cry 14 Black-and-white cookie 15 Basin accessory 16 Blackbird 17 One 18 Pristine 20 Singer Campbell 22 Pinch 24 Completely 28 Used mouth-wash 32 Pancake topper 33 Author James 34 Wrigley product 36 "... oh, where can —?" 37 Support 39 Disarmed a bomb

DOWN 1 Oil-cartel acronym 2 Poultry 3 Run away 4 "The — Daba Honey-moon" 5 "Pow!" 6 Tex-Mex entree 7 Seeker of fugitives 8 Spigoted vessel 9 Floral neckwear 10 Automaton, for short 12 Anaheim is there 19 Zero 21 Type measures 23 Dowel 25 Raw rocks 26 Oil paint container 27 Newspaper page 28 Chatters 29 Taj Mahal city 30 Paper quantity 31 Flop 35 Kitten's call 38 Nosh 40 Mis' neighbors 42 Twangy 45 Ginormous 47 Eager 48 Start over 49 Dangling site 50 Donkey 51 Do lawnwork 52 Historic time 54 "Family Guy" daughter

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 3-2

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chris Martin, 32; Jon Bon Jovi, 47; Lou Reed, 67; Jennifer Jones, 90

Happy Birthday: Put more emphasis on your career or your next phase in life. Consider upgrading your skills or getting involved in something to help you enjoy your life more. You can secure your future by making conservative but well-thought-out moves this year. It's action that is required. Your numbers are 3, 8, 15, 24, 32, 34, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't get emotionally involved in things that don't concern you. You will make a far greater impact if you concentrate on hooking up with people who can help you get ahead. Partnerships and new projects are highlighted. A love relationship will improve with nurture. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will be emotional about issues over which you have little control. Travel, work, education or rethinking your basic life philosophy will help you make the right choices. Sometimes an adjustment is all that's required. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Set your sights high and go after what you want. Don't let emotional matters or anyone who is wrapped up in a melodrama drag you into his or her ordeal. Someone from your past will help you out. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Experience something a little different. You will find different ways to make your life easier. Working toward greater security is fine but not at the expense of activities and events

that offer you knowledge and wisdom. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your mind should be on following as creative a venue as possible. Entertain the idea of a partnership if it will be conducive to making one of your goals or dreams come true. Now is a great time for love. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Sudden changes will turn out to be in your favor, so don't shudder at the first mention of something new. Traveling will give you a broader view of the possibilities that exist. Don't be tricked into doing something for someone when it's not your responsibility. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Focus on fun, romance and relationships. You can reconnect with old friends and discover a lot about who you are. Self-improvement projects will cost a lot but, in the end, will be worth it. Try to stay within your means. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be torn between what you should do and what you want to do. Before you make up your mind, consider the consequences. It's a no-win situation but you may have to put someone else's best interests first this time. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't listen to what others want you to do. Follow your own instincts. A new direction may be necessary but don't rule out utilizing some of your old skills, ideas or projects. The timing is probably much better now. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't waste time trying to explain your actions

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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when you have done exactly what was required of you. Put some effort into your personal life and home. A residential move or making some alterations to your current situation will help you feel better about your future. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): An unexpected to emotional manipulation. There are always more options and time is on your side. Take a wait-and-see approach. Joining a group or organization that interests you will bring you greater confidence. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An unexpected change will result if you are unreasonable regarding a proposition or proposal being offered. There are underlying details of which you are probably unaware. Be smart and read between the lines. *****

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative and adaptable. You are a humanitarian and an emotional and sensitive individual. You have an enlightened view of life, love and happiness.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	9		6			8		3
2				4			5	
			5		8			6
8		6		3		7		
	4		8		9		1	
		1		5		2		8
6			9		4			
	1			2				7
3		7			5		9	

Difficulty Level ★

3/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	5	2	6	9	1	3	7
3	7	9	8	5	1	4	2	6
2	1	6	3	4	7	8	5	9
1	6	8	5	2	4	9	7	3
5	9	7	1	3	6	2	8	4
4	3	2	7	9	8	5	6	1
9	5	4	6	8	3	7	1	2
7	2	3	9	1	5	6	4	8
6	8	1	4	7	2	3	9	5

Difficulty Level ****

3/28

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

AS TIME GOES BY

Solution: 9 letters

C	T	R	D	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E	D	E
O	H	R	C	A	T	V	O	L	U	N	T	E	E	R
M	P	A	O	E	E	R	F	A	D	U	L	T	D	O
P	R	A	N	P	X	H	A	H	G	T	M	I	I	
E	S	Y	T	G	P	E	A	V	T	R	N	L	U	N
T	M	D	D	I	E	U	R	E	E	L	A	A	G	E
E	I	I	E	O	E	S	S	C	N	L	A	C	L	S
N	A	H	N	S	B	N	N	D	I	O	L	E	E	P
C	G	I	O	D	I	E	C	N	L	S	I	I	H	O
E	R	L	S	M	I	O	W	E	P	I	E	S	W	L
V	A	R	A	R	E	I	P	I	I	Y	U	S	I	E
L	Y	T	E	S	S	L	O	W	C	C	T	B	T	V
O	I	P	S	D	S	N	O	I	S	N	E	P	I	E
V	X	W	O	L	E	M	C	I	V	I	L	M	D	
E	E	M	I	R	P	O	S	E	D	M	O	V	E	E

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Adult, Ahead, Aims, Body, Build, Calm, Care, Changes, Civil, Competence, Develop, Discipline, Empty, Evolve, Exercise, Experience, Free, Glasses, Grace, Gray, Guide, Health, Home, Knowledge, Mellow, Mind, Move, Older, Patience, Pension, Plan, Poised, Prime, Seasoned, Senior, Settled, Slow, Support, Time, Travel, Vision, Vitamins, Volunteer, Will, Wisdom

Last Saturday's Answer: Exporting

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STUMPED?

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WHATZIT Solution:
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ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
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• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.


CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.


ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.


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Saipan Tribune



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HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE



**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
OPEN COMPETITIVE & PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITY
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT**

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS – 2009 - 019**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **FEDERAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR IV**
Pay Level/Step: **32 / 01-12** Per Annum Salary: **\$24,889.35 - \$ 42,558.00**
Opening Date: **February 19, 2009** Closing Date: **March 6, 2009**
Location: **PSS, FEDERAL PROGRAM OFFICE**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays)

Minimum Requirements:
Federal Program Coordinator IV – Graduation from an accredited university with a Bachelor's degree with five (5) years work experience in federal grant development, grant writing and administration.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

Announcement No: **PSS – 2009 - 020**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **PROGRAM MANAGER (Food & Nutrition Services Program Coordinator)**
Pay Level/Step: **35 / 01 - 12** Per Annum Salary: **\$28,807.51 - \$49,266.21**
Opening Date: **February 19, 2009** Closing Date: **March 6, 2009**
Location: **PSS – FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES OFFICE, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays)

Minimum Requirements:
Graduation from a US accredited college or university with a Baccalaureate degree and at least six (6) years food services management experience or related work experience.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE). COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT <http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources> ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

Wade sparks huge Heat rally against Knicks



MIAMI (AP)—The New York Knicks made Dwyane Wade bleed.

So he made them pay.

Wade scored 46 points, 15 of them coming in a dramatic 19-0 spurt that erased a huge deficit in the final nine minutes and carried the Miami Heat to a 120-115 win over the Knicks on Saturday night.

He tied a franchise record with 24 points in the fourth quarter, plus added 10 assists. Jermaine O'Neal scored 18 points and Jamario Moon added 17 for the Heat.

Nate Robinson led the Knicks with 29 points off the bench, but missed the 3-pointer that would have tied it in the final seconds. Larry Hughes and Chris Duhon each scored 19 and David Lee had an 18-point, 13-rebound night for New York.

And think that Knicks-Heat rivalry from years ago is over? Think again.

Miami trailed 103-88 after Wade received a bloody lip that needed three stitches after the game and Heat coach Erik Spoelstra earned a technical for arguing why no foul was called. The Heat simply took over from there, with Wade scoring the game's next six points and breathing life into a team that desperately needed a win for its playoff hopes.

When Hughes tied it for New York with a 3-pointer with 1:19 left, Wade answered with a jumper to put Miami back on top.

The Heat wouldn't trail again.

It got testy plenty of times, including with 5:40 left when Robinson said something to O'Neal, the new Heat center took a step toward him, and double-technical was called.

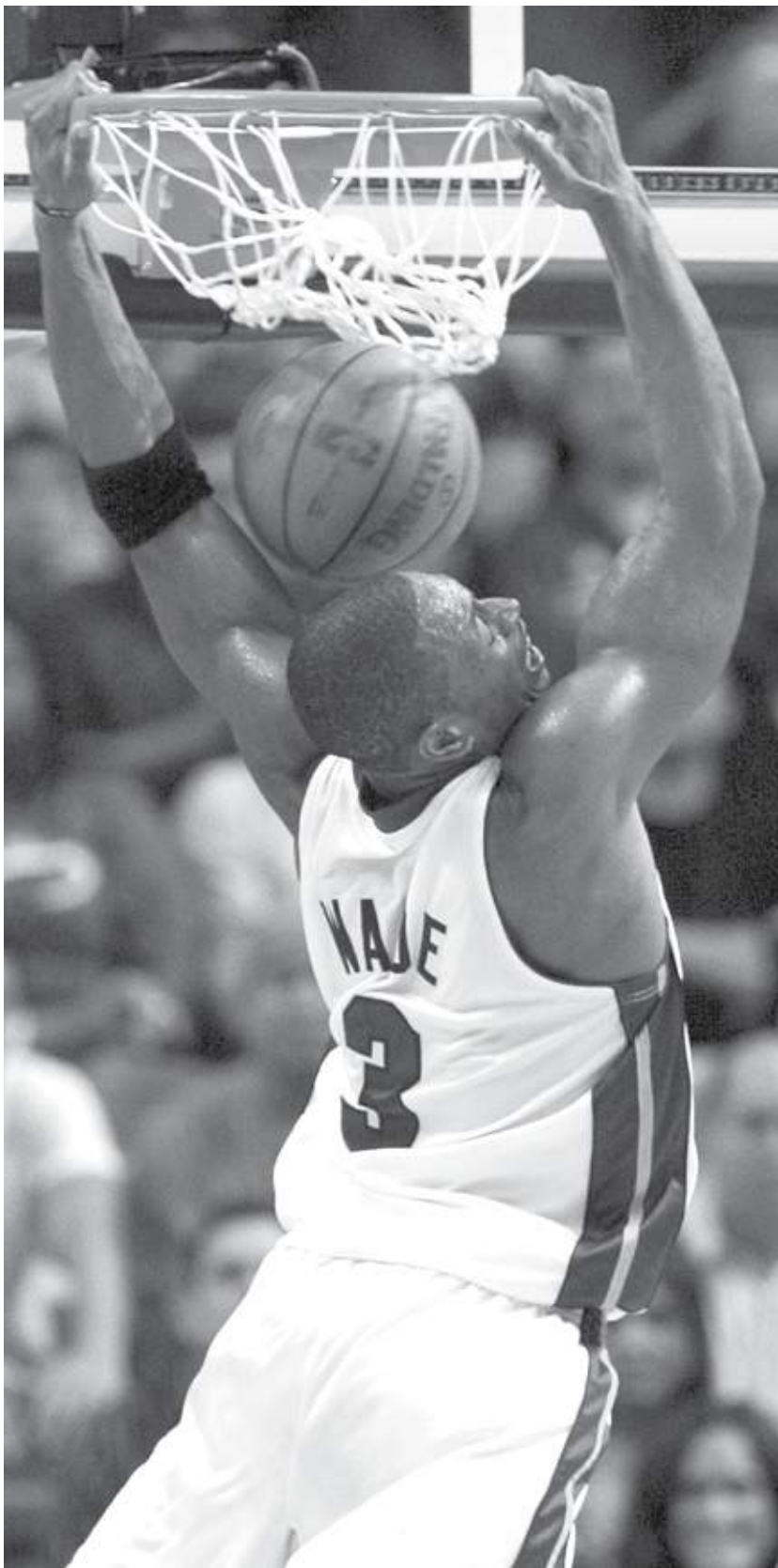
By then, Wade was in take-over mode anyway.

He was 7-for-11 from the floor in the fourth, 8-for-8 from the line, even doing so without his now-infamous Band-Wade on his cheek.

He might need one for his lip now.

Simply put, the Heat were reeling until the final minutes. Robinson and Duhon were scoring at will, the Heat looked tired and on the brink of their second loss in as many nights.

Then Wade got going, adding an-



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade dunks the ball in the fourth quarter during an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks in Miami Saturday Feb. 28, 2009.

other chapter to his already-storied Heat legacy.

The Knicks hit triple-figures in scoring for the 20th consecutive game, and it was obvious early they were going to get there. Duhon got it started, going 5-for-5 from the field—4-for-4 from 3-point range—in the first 8 minutes, as the Knicks sprinted to a quick 22-14 lead.

Magic 106, 76ers 100

At Philadelphia, Rashard Lewis and Hedo Turkoglu scored 23 points each and the Magic tied a franchise record with 37 3-point tries in their comeback win.

Courtney Lee contributed 18 points, Dwight Howard added 12 and Rafer Alston had 11 for the Magic (43-16), who improved to 21-9 on the road, the third best record in the NBA.

The Magic swept the three-game series for the first time since the 1997-98 season.

Andre Miller had 23 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, Andre Igoudala scored 22, Willie Green added 19 and Thaddeus Young had 18 for the Sixers.

Bulls 105, Rockets 102

At Chicago, Derrick Rose scored 16 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter, and the Bulls rallied from a 17-point deficit with six minutes left to beat Houston.

The Bulls outscored the Rockets 23-3 down the stretch to break the Rockets' season-high six-game win streak. It was Chicago's first win since the deaths of franchise icons Norm Van Lier and Johnny "Red" Kerr.

Ron Artest scored a season-best 32 points to lead the Rockets.

Thunder 99, Grizzlies 92

At Memphis, Jeff Green had 27 points and 10 rebounds, Russell Westbrook added 25 points and the Thunder snapped a seven-game losing streak.

The Thunder won despite playing without Kevin Durant, the league's fourth-leading scorer, who suffered a right ankle sprain in Friday night's 110-108 overtime loss to Dallas.

Thabo Sefolosha, playing only his fourth game for Oklahoma City,

had season-highs of 15 points and 11 rebounds. Nenad Krstic also scored 10 points.

Rudy Gay scored 20 points to lead Memphis, which lost its seventh straight.

Bucks 109, Wizards 93

At Milwaukee, Charlie Villanueva scored 25 points and Richard Jefferson added 22 to lift the Bucks, who opened a double-digit lead early and never trailed.

Reserve Dan Gadzuric had 10 points and 11 rebounds and Ramon Sessions added 12 points and 10 assists. The Bucks also got 13 points from rookie Luc Richard Mbah a Moute.

Washington never looked interested in defense, allowing Milwaukee to shoot 52 percent, including 11-of-19 from 3-point range.

Antawn Jamison had 21 points and 14 rebounds, and Caron Butler scored 19 for Washington.

Jazz 102, Kings 89

At Salt Lake City, Ronnie Brewer scored a career-high 26 points and Utah increased its winning streak to seven straight hours after Jazz owner Larry Miller's funeral.

Mehmet Okur also scored 26 and Deron Williams added 16 points and 11 assists for the Jazz.

The day started somberly for Utah with the funeral for Miller, who died eight days before of complications from diabetes, but ended with a fitting send-off for their longtime owner.

Kevin Martin had 19 points to lead the Kings.

Bobcats 100, Clippers 95

At Los Angeles, Emeka Okafor had 28 points and nine rebounds, Raja Bell scored nine of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and the Bobcats won their third straight.

The Bobcats, who entered the NBA in 2004-05, beat the Clippers for the fourth straight time after losing the first six meetings. Okafor made 11 of 17 shots, while Boris Diaw had 15 points.

Zach Randolph had 33 points and nine rebounds for Los Angeles.

Ogilvy and Casey to meet in Match Play final



MARANA, Ariz.

(AP)—Geoff Ogilvy and Paul Casey drove up to Dove Mountain two weeks ago to play a practice round on the new golf course for the Accenture Match Play Championship.

When they play again Sunday, the stakes will be significantly higher.

Ogilvy made five birdies on the back nine to outlast teenage sensation Rory McIlroy in the quarterfinals, then played his final four holes in 5-under par against Stewart Cink for a 4-and-2 victory to reach the championship match for the third time in four years.

His opponent will be Casey, who has turned in the most dominating performance in the 11-year history of this tournament.

In an All-England semifinal, Casey defeated Ross Fisher, 2 and 1, and will have a chance to become the first Match Play champion to never trail in

any match the entire week. Even more astounding is that Casey has led 81 of the 82 holes he has played.

A tournament that no longer has Tiger Woods instead has the best two golfers in match play over the last three years.

Ogilvy is 17-2 in match play dating to his 2006 victory at the Accenture Match Play Championship, the final year it was held at La Costa. That includes a singles victory in the Presidents Cup.

Casey is 16-3-1 in match play around the world, including his 2006 victory at the HSBC World Match Play Championship at Wentworth, when he never trailed over the final 71 holes of that event.

The only time they have faced each other in match play—except for games at their home club in Scottsdale, Ariz.—was two years ago, when Ogilvy scored a 5-and-4 victory in the quarterfinals.

The former U.S. Open champion appears to be hitting his stride.

"That's the best I played all week by a long way today," Ogilvy said.

He had to be sharp against both his opponents on a warm day in the high desert. McIlroy, the 19-year-old from Northern Ireland, kept on Ogilvy's heels the whole match. Ogilvy birdied his last three holes and won only one of them in a 2-and-1 victory.

"He's the real deal," Ogilvy said of a teenager who will rise to No. 15 in the world next week. "This will be the worst ranking he's got for the next 10 years. It's only going to go up, because he's very impressive."

Equally difficult was Cink, who became only the fourth player to reach the semifinals in consecutive years.

Cink, who defeated Ernie Els (2 and 1) in the quarterfinals Saturday morning, was tied with Ogilvy when they reached the par-5 13th hole, where Ogilvy played an exquisite pitch to 5 feet for birdie and Cink had a 12-footer to match him. The putt stopped one turn short.

"That was a body blow," Cink said. "I know it was only one putt, but Geoff got a lot of momentum out of it."

Indeed, Ogilvy birdied the next hole from 12 feet to go 2 up, and then delivered the signature shot of the day. With the air warm and the turf firm from an afternoon sun, he hit 3-wood off the tee on the 343-yard 15th, and smiled as the ball bounced up the edge of the bunkers, onto the green and stopped 6 feet away for eagle.

"Two pretty satisfying guys to beat," Ogilvy said. "And I guess the more satisfying part was I played my best golf in the last few holes of each match, which is really nice."

Cink's loss meant the United States will not have a finalist for only the second time.

Casey had his easiest time of the week in the quarterfinals against Sean O'Hair, who got food poisoning overnight at the worst time. The American played the first two holes so poorly that

Casey never had to attempt his 6-foot birdie putt at No. 1 or an 8-foot birdie on the next hole. O'Hair shot 40 on the front nine, falling hopelessly behind as Casey won, 4 and 3.

Fisher defeated Justin Leonard, 2 and 1, in the quarterfinals, but he fell behind from the start against Casey.

Casey was 1-up through 11 holes when Fisher fell apart.

Fisher took four shots to get down from behind the par-5 13th green, and was lucky to escape with a halve when he twice went into the desert around the 14th green and took double bogey. But Casey wouldn't let him back in the match, closing him out with a birdie on the 17th for a 2-and-1 victory.

Ogilvy will be trying to win a World Golf Championship for the third time in his career, the most of any player besides Woods, who has won 15 of them. For Casey, it would be his first professional victory in a PGA Tour-sanctioned event.

Cassel trade signifies Pats feel Brady will be OK

By **HOWARD ULMAN**
AP SPORTS WRITER



The New England Patriots sent Matt Cassel to the Kansas City Chiefs and a message to their own fans: don't worry about Tom Brady's knee.

One question, though, remained.

How could the Patriots obtain only a second-round draft choice for a solid, young quarterback and a 12-year veteran leader, linebacker Mike Vrabel?

That mystery persisted Saturday after the Patriots announced the trade for the 34th pick in this year's draft, which the Chiefs earned with a franchise-worst 2-14 record.

Cassel, who hadn't started the previous seven seasons with Southern California and the Patriots, led New England to an 11-5 record, but no playoff berth, after Brady suffered a season-ending knee injury in the opener—on a hit by Kansas City's Bernard Pollard, who said it was an "accident."

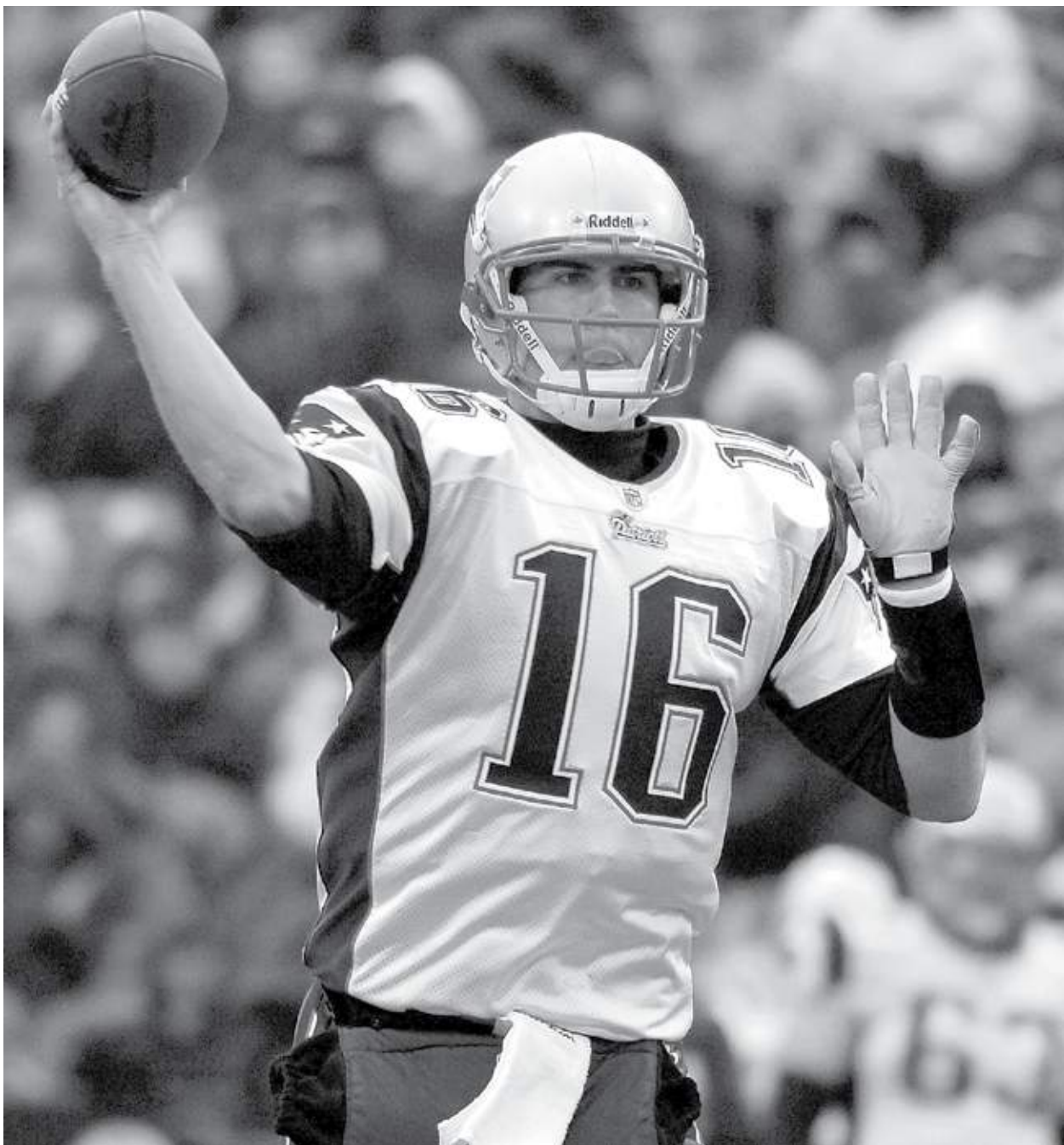
Cassel's steady improvement sent his stock soaring as he entered free agency. So the Patriots put the franchise tag on him, requiring any team that signed him to give them two first-round picks. But that tag would have cost the Patriots \$14.65 million if they kept Cassel as insurance if Brady's health was questionable.

By shipping him out so early, they must be sure that 2007 NFL MVP Brady will be ready for the regular season after undergoing surgery for torn ligaments in his left knee on Oct. 6 and a later operation for an infection in the knee.

On Feb. 18, Brady said his recovery was on schedule for him to be ready for the opener.

"I'm feeling great. I'm feeling really good. Everything is progressing just as I expected," he said at a charity event.

Cassel and Vrabel join a team being run by new general manager Scott Pioli, who went to the Chiefs in January



In this Dec. 28, 2008 file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Matt Cassel throws a pass during the first half of an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills at Ralph Wilson Stadium in Orchard Park, N.Y.

after serving as vice president of player personnel for the Patriots, the team he joined in 2002.

"I have a long history with both players," Pioli said. "Mike and Matt are men that I respect both personally and profes-

sionally. I look forward to having them as new members of the Chiefs family."

About a month after joining the

Chiefs, Pioli fired coach Herm Edwards and replaced him with Arizona offensive coordinator Todd Haley.

Patriots coach Bill Belichick praised Cassel in a statement issued by the club.

"It is very easy to root for guys like Matt Cassel, who do everything the right way and flourish as a result," he said. "As much as we would have loved to continue working with Matt, we wish him nothing but the best as he takes this next step forward in his career."

The Chiefs needed help at quarterback after Brodie Croyle and Damon Huard were hurt and Tyler Thigpen, the first player from tiny Coastal Carolina to be drafted by the NFL, struggled as their replacement but did throw for 21 touchdowns and 2,994 yards.

Cassel, meanwhile, finally showed what he could do after waiting behind Heisman Trophy winners Carson Palmer and Matt Leinart at USC and two-time Super Bowl MVP Brady.

The seventh-round draft choice in 2005 took over when Brady was hurt midway through the first quarter of the first game and went on to throw for 3,693 yards and 21 touchdowns and 11 interceptions while starting 15 games.

Vrabel fills a need for guidance and playing ability in a Kansas City defense that managed just 10 sacks all season and allowed a team-record 54 points to Buffalo. His departure also creates space under the Patriots' salary cap.

"Mike Vrabel epitomizes everything a coach could seek in a professional football player: toughness, intelligence, play, leadership, versatility and consistency at the highest level," Belichick said. "Behind the scenes, Mike's wit and personality is one of the things we have all enjoyed about coming to work every day."

But the Patriots restocked at linebacker last season with rookies Jerod Mayo, the Associated Press' defensive player of the year, Gary Guyton, Vince Redd and Shawn Crable. They also have veterans Tedy Bruschi and Adalius Thomas.

Broncos sign seven-time Pro Bowl safety Dawkins

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Seven-time Pro Bowl safety Brian Dawkins had a hard time not looking back Saturday after signing with the Denver Broncos following a 13-year run with the Philadelphia Eagles.

So raw were his emotions over leaving Philly that he only wanted to talk about Denver, yet it was obvious from his puffy eyes that he'd spent plenty of time and emotions pondering about what he had left behind.

To the Eagles' fans who relished his hard hits and big plays while he helped lead the team to five NFC championship games and a Super Bowl, Dawkins couldn't bring himself to say farewell.

"I'll have a time to really sit down and have a conversation with them, but they know it. I've absolutely enjoyed my time there, and this was a very, very, very emotional decision for me. Very emotional. I've been crying," Dawkins told The Associated Press on Saturday after signing what is essentially a two-year, \$9 million deal. "I believe they know how I feel about them because I feel the same way about them."

Dawkins acknowledged his sadness was sparring with his joy.

"It's a day that kind of goes both ways," he said. "I don't really want

to get into that too much. I'll handle that down the road in talking about the Philadelphia Eagles. Right now, I want to celebrate this."

Dawkins, who turns 36 next season, said he felt blessed to be going from one storied franchise to another.

"You can feel it. You can absolutely feel it," Dawkins said. "When I walk through the halls, you see the guys who have gone before us to Super Bowls and I see T.D. (Terrell Davis) on the wall. It makes me want to get back there. It makes me want to get back there in a hurry."

Although Dawkins is clearly on the downside of his career, he brings a hard-hitting style and leadership qualities coveted by new Broncos coach Josh McDaniels, who was the New England Patriots offensive coordinator before replacing Mike Shanahan.

Dawkins said McDaniels told him he envisions his new savvy safety playing a role similar to what Rodney Harrison did in New England.

Dawkins said McDaniels, 32, was a terrific recruiter.

"Very bright, very enthusiastic of what the vision is for this team: not winning later, not building anything, but starting and winning right away," Dawkins said. "I bought into it. I drunk

the orange Kool-Aid."

The Broncos also signed former Indianapolis Colts special teams standout Darrell Reid to a three-year, \$6.8 million contract, agent Blake Baratz said.

McDaniels, who has signed a bevy of other free agents, including Miami safety Renaldo Hill, targeted Dawkins as the big fish in his first free agent class.

"He's exactly what the Denver Broncos are looking for," McDaniels said.

The Eagles praised Dawkins and thanked him for all he gave the organization.

"Brian Dawkins has been one of the pillars of this franchise for 13 years," Eagles chairman Jeffrey Lurie said. "Brian embodies everything you look for in a professional athlete and human being. I have been fortunate to witness his impeccable character, his passion for the game of football and his commitment to being the best player he could be."

"I look forward to continuing a close relationship with him once his playing days are over. His legacy as an Eagle will last forever and will ultimately land him in Canton as a Hall of Famer."

Although Dawkins has had just two interceptions in his last 32 games, his

passionate play helped the Eagles salvage a teetering season last year and reach the conference title game for the fifth time in eight seasons.

"Brian is one of the best players in franchise history and one of the most popular players to ever play in the city of Philadelphia," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "... He gave this city 13 years of emotional, energetic football. We wish Brian and his family nothing but the best as he continues his career in Denver."

Dawkins said his big move dawned on him when he arrived at Dove Valley Saturday morning to put his signature on a five-year, \$17 million contract and saw his bright orange jersey on the table.

"I've worn the green so long that a lot of people didn't know how I was going to react to this orange," Dawkins said. "Well, I went to Clemson, so I've worn this orange with pride already."

Dawkins figures he has at least a couple more good seasons in him. He started all 16 games last season for the third time in four years and had 75 tackles, three sacks, six forced fumbles and an interception.

The Broncos, who gave up 448 points last season while ranking at or near the bottom in every major de-

fensive category, ran through six free safeties after signing Marlon McCree and Marquand Manuel last offseason.

McCree was allowed to become a free agent and Manuel was jettisoned along with four other defensive starters in a massive spring cleaning that freed up \$37 million in cap space.

In addition to bringing in the two veteran safeties, McDaniels has tapped the New England pipeline, luring wide receiver Jabar Gaffney and long-snapper Lonie Paxton from the Patriots. Hill and Gaffney both signed four-year deals worth \$10 million with \$3 million in guarantees, their agent, Drew Rosenhaus confirmed Saturday.

Reid, 26, has started just twice at defensive tackle in his four seasons in Indy, but emerged as an elite special teamer, leading the Colts in special teams tackles with 18 last season.

The Broncos hope the versatile unrestricted free agent can fill many needs in Denver. His contract contains incentives that could push the value to \$9.6 million based on playing time and sacks, Baratz said.

"I really don't know what their plan is, but I know he's in a unique role in that he can play multiple positions and is a jack of all trades," Baratz told The Associated Press.

Taco pitches 15 strikeouts in Falcons' win

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Tanapag Falcons retired their ace pitcher just when the going got tough but adjusted to a tense situation and won against the San Roque D9ers, 4-1, on Thursday night in the Big League Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball Association at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Vicente "Taco" Camacho played solidly on the mound and issued 15 strikeouts but he was relieved in the bottom of the seventh and final inning with two outs and the bases loaded after he already threw the maximum limit.

Falcons shortstop Jorro

Jones was summoned to the mound and he finished the game with a strikeout on D9ers' last batter.

"I know it was over for him (Taco). It was a tense situation and we have to make the right adjustment," said team manager Doru Camacho, who finally booked his first win in the league after the Falcons dropped their first assignment to defending champion Hustlers last Feb. 17.

Catcher Ignacio "Ike" Aldan Jr. went 4-for-4 for the Falcons, including a double, a triple, and three runs in the third, fifth, and seventh.

The Falcons' other run came from Taco himself who was drove in by Camacho in the fifth.

D9ers pitcher David Cama-



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Taco Camacho pitches Falcons to 15 strikeouts in their 4-1 victory over the San Roque D9ers on Thursday night in the Big League division of the 2009 SLLB at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios.

cho scored his team's lone run after he doubled then advanced to third on a passed ball and reached home plate on another passed ball.

David was relieved by Jared Camacho in the fifth.

The Falcons, sponsored by Sablan Topline Cleaning Agency, won the pennant last year but the Hustlers beat them in the finals.

"I'm confident with my players. We have good defense and our pitchers are good," said the rookie team manager.

He said that the Falcons need to improve their offense to stay in strong contention this year.

"It's not to underestimate the other teams but once we improve our hitting, I think we have a big chance for the

title," he said.

Two of the Falcons' key players last year have graduated from the Little League but they have two new recruits from the Senior Division.

The team is composed of Drew Magofna, Ignacio Aldan Jr., Ryan Mizutani, Nevan Falig, Charles Kadlikm Jr., Vicente Camacho, Keoni Pua, Vicente Cabrera, Jorro Jones, Marley Techur, ryan Ada, Juan Tenorio Jr., Berwyn Philip, Romeo Herman Jr., Jesus Taitano (head coach), and Ray Bosli (assistant coach).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	47	13	.783	—
Philadelphia	29	29	.500	17
New Jersey	26	32	.448	20
New York	24	35	.407	22 1/2
Toronto	23	37	.383	24
Central Division				
Cleveland	45	12	.789	—
Detroit	28	29	.491	17
Milwaukee	29	33	.468	18 1/2
Chicago	27	33	.450	19 1/2
Indiana	25	36	.410	22 1/2
Southeast Division				
Orlando	43	16	.729	—
Atlanta	33	25	.569	9 1/2
Miami	31	27	.534	11 1/2
Charlotte	25	35	.417	18 1/2
Washington	14	45	.237	29

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	39	18	.684	—
Houston	37	22	.627	3
New Orleans	35	22	.614	4
Dallas	35	23	.603	4 1/2
Memphis	15	43	.259	24 1/2

Northwest Division				
Denver	39	20	.661	—
Portland	36	22	.621	2 1/2
Utah	36	23	.610	3
Minnesota	18	40	.310	20 1/2
Oklahoma City	14	45	.237	25

Pacific Division				
LA Lakers	48	11	.814	—
Phoenix	33	25	.569	14 1/2
Golden State	20	38	.345	27 1/2
LA Clippers	15	45	.250	33 1/2
Sacramento	13	48	.213	36

Yesterday's Game				
Miami	120	New York	115	
Orlando	106	Philadelphia	100	
Chicago	105	Houston	102	
Oklahoma City	99	Memphis	92	
Milwaukee	109	Washington	93	
Utah	102	Sacramento	89	
Charlotte	100	LA Clippers	95	

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS	
Men	
DCCA	16 0
Beach Boys	11 3
Freedom Air	11 3
Docomo	11 4
CPA	10 2
No Zone	11 4
Joeten Motor Jets	10 4
Legislature	10 5
P&S	6 7
CRM/DEQ	6 8
POI	7 7
DLNR	6 9
CHC	4 9
PSS	5 9
Customs	4 11
PIC	3 10
CUC	3 9
Law & Order	3 10
Mayors	3 12
Hopwood	0 14
Women	
NMC	9 2
CUC	5 4
Finance	5 4
DCCA	5 6
CHC	1 9

DOLPHINS

From Page 1

Ben Lisua tied the game at 64-all, after he attacked the MHS defense, made the basket, and drew a foul from Kenty, with 4.6 seconds remaining in the playoff period.

Lisua, who earlier completed a 3-point play to tie the game at 62-all, muffed the bonus shot.

There was a battle for the long rebound won by Kyle Concepcion, who was then nudged by Wes Tomokane at the right baseline, as the latter tried to steal the ball.

Concepcion trooped to the

15-foot line for the first time and amid the deafening noise from the crowd, missed both charities.

Trevor Ogomoro claimed the offensive rebound, but with only 1.6 seconds left on the clock, failed to pull up for a decent shot, as he was partially blocked by Kenty.

The Ayuyus never recovered from their free throw woes, as they started to fall apart in overtime, committing too many turnovers, giving up fouls, and muffing a couple of charities, anew.

In contrast, MHS, which failed to defend its title last season after bowing to Saipan Southern High School, 99-111,

showed poise in the extension period with Ada making six points and drawing contributions from Kenty and Soria, who nailed three markers apiece.

Soria canned his second free throw in the last 0.6 of a second in overtime to put icing on the cake. Soria finished with 11 points, and he, along with Kenty and Tomokane, gave MHS depth inside, collaring rebounds and making undergoal stabs.

Kenty was the second-leading scorer for MHS with 15 points, making 10 of them from the paint in the first quarter to give the Dolphins a good start.

Soria and Kenty filled the void left by Jericho Cruz and

Marvin Rabauliman on both the Dolphins' offense and defense. Cruz and Rabauliman were kicked off the team, a week before the title match.

MHS controlled the game from the opening tip until midway in the fourth quarter, leading by as much as 11 points, 56-47, before Jesus Iguel and Lisua brought the Ayuyus back into the game.

But Iguel sat out in the remaining minute of the fourth period due to a minor injury on his left thigh. He bumped into an MHS player on several occasions in the second half and was forced to return to the bench limping.

He then fouled out in the open-

ing minutes of the overtime.

KHS had four players fouling out and the Ayuyus gave up 35 fouls, allowing MHS to go 20-for-41 from the foul line.

Only Zack Tudela fouled out for the Dolphins and they had only 22 fouls, giving Kagman only 19 free throws with the Ayuyus nailing only eight.

MHS 76 — Ada 36, Keny 15, Soria 11, Tomokane 6, Tudela 4, Untalan 3, Villegas 2.

KHS 72 — Iguel 22, Ogomoro 10, Pangelinan 10 Lisua 8, Concepcion 6, Brel 6, Camacho 4, Manglona 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-14, 33-34, 56-45, 64-all, 76-72.

NO

From Page 1

into the last two minutes of the game.

The Dolphins did not know what hit them in that scoring spree and they continue to get lost in the closing minutes of the championships match, while Yvonne Bennett, Stacie Mizutani, and Agatha Repeki put the finishing touches on the Lady Ayuyus' title run.

MHS settled for another bridesmaid finish, as the Lady Dolphins also bowed to the Lady Ayuyus in last season's finals (67-54).

The Lady Dolphins entered this season's title match as favorites, having swept the Lady Ayuyus in the regular season. MHS won its first meeting with Kagman by five points, 48-43, and the second outing by nine points, 57-48 triumph.

In their third encounter, it seemed the Lady Ayuyus were

headed for another loss, as Kagman scored only four points against the Dolphins' 14 markers in the first quarter.

But the Lady Ayuyus regained their bearings in the second quarter with Mesa, Repeki, and Yvonne leading the team's recovery. They combined for 12 of the Lady Ayuyus' 16 points in the second period and Kagman held MHS to five markers to take the lead at halftime, 20-19.

The Lady Ayuyus hung on to the lead in the third period, 38-

33, as MHS continued to play an erratic game in that canto.

The Lady Dolphins redeemed themselves in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter with Riza Tacliad's triple capping an MHS' 9-0 scoring and giving the host a 42-41 lead.

But Kagman countered with its own 9-0 run with Mesa starting the scoring spree with a triple. Yvonne added a free throw and after she missed her second charity, Kagman took the offensive rebound, setting

up Mesa for another triple. Repeki's layup gave the Lady Ayuyus an eight-point lead, 50-42, entering the last two minutes of the game.

KHS 56 — Yvo. Bennett 17, Mesa 13, Repeki 10, Mizutani 7, Diaz 3, Hofschneider 2, Aldan 2.

MHS 47 — Pagarao 23, Benavente 11, Guzman 6, Tacliad 5, L. Rangamar 2.

Scoring by quarters: 4-14, 20-19, 38-33, 56-47.

JETS

From Page 1

over the Little Falcons to seize the solo lead as they remained undefeated in three outings.

The Jets also defeated the IT&E Dolphins, 19-7, last Feb. 16 and prevailed over the JPO enforcers, 15-0, last Feb. 22.

The Dolphins bounced back with an 8-3 victory over the Enforcers also Saturday, while

the As Matuis Twins snapped a two-game losing skid with an 11-5 triumph against Shell.

UMDA Hustlers and Ol'Aces are the only other teams still undefeated at 2-0.

In the Junior Division,

Ol'Aces currently shares the lead with the Patriots with similar 3-0 cards.

Ol'Aces defeated D'9ers, 15-2.

Defending champion Kagman Lion Heart also snapped

a two-game losing run with a 17-6 victory over the winless Fielders (0-3).

In the Senior Division, the Jets still paces the pack with an immaculate 4-0 mark by edging out the D'9ers, 4-3.

NO

From Page 1

lone home run in the bottom of the second inning. His team managed 13 RBIs, including two from himself, three from Mike Blas, while two others had two—Pete Teigita and Bill Benavente.

Blas had three runs and four others with two each, Jay Camacho, Teigita, Lisua, and Ton Mareham.

won its game against Pacific Islands Club, 18-8, after only five innings via the 10-run mercy rule.

After putting down two on fly-outs and a ground out against PIC's first three batters in the top of the first with Highness Asanuma on the mound, POI quickly took a 5-0 lead in the bottom first with the its first three batters—Jun Kaipat, Asanuma, and William Sablan—hitting paydirt. Ton Lizama and Harland De Los Reyes also reached home plate.

PIC retaliated with six runs from Otsuka Masatoshi, Emil

Pedernal, Cole Pritchard, Al Terael, Annes Capelle, and Jesse Perredo in the top of second. Ruben Olkeril also went 1-2-3—all on fly-outs—against POI's batters in the bottom second.

PIC added two more runs in the third from Pedernal and Evan Hunsberger and PIC took an 8-5 lead after two and one half innings.

POI's Kyle Kaipat and Mabel Ngringemelas cut the lead to 7-8 in the bottom third then Asanuma stopped PIC's offense as he sat down three of the first four batters on fly-outs in the top of fourth.

Five POI runners reached home plate in the bottom fourth, Frank Acosta, Tyron Celis, Kaipat, Asanuma, and Sablan, in that order.

Asanuma grounded out the first three PIC batters in the top of fifth then POI scored six more runs in the bottom fifth en route to its seventh win in 14 games and climbed from 11th to ninth in the team standings.

PIC (3-10) went down to 17th and 18th places in a tie with Law and Order.

PSS 18, Hopwood 8
Public School System quickly

recovered from a slow start to defeat cellar dweller Hopwood, 18-8.

Leadoff batter Asap Ogu-muro hit the game's lone homerun right in the top of the first inning to give PSS a 1-0 lead but Hopwood charged back with six runs in the bottom first.

Then PSS exploded with nine runs in the top of second and tightened its defense after that to finish the game.

The win improved PSS' record to 5-9 while dealing Hopwood its 14th defeat in as many games.

POI 18, PIC 8

POI Aviation roared back and

The Week in Sports

Dolphins, Lady Ayuyus top headlines

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

The biggest catch in last week's sports events in the CNMI was the conclusion of the 2008-2009 season of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Basketball League with Marianas High School and Kagman High School splitting titles.

The Lady Ayuyus made a three-peat in the girls varsity division of the MISO caging after outclassing the MHS Lady Dolphins in the finals, 56-47.

In the boys division finals, MHS foiled a Kagman sweep this season following a 76-72 overtime victory over the Ayuyus.

Joining the Lady Ayuyus and the Dolphins in last week's winners circle were Japanese professional cyclist Ogasawara Takahiro, Melanie Daly, Philip Pederal, Alberto Cataina Jr., Ben Babauta, Raul Dumapit, Bernard Paraiso, Marion McKenzie, Rock Steady, D9ers, Patriots, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, and Aqua Resort Club.

Takahiro of Japan dominated the Saipan stages of the 8th Annual Jazy Cup Tour De Marianas

The 28-year-old Japanese won the 7.5-km individual time trial (Stage 1) and the 67-km road race (Stage 2).

In Stage 1 race from Marianas Country Club to Suicide Cliff, Takahiro timed in at 16 minutes and 44 seconds. In Stage 2, the Japanese pro posted 2:01:59 for an accumulated time of 2:16:59.

In the women's division, Daly defeated Mylene Garcia, while Pederal prevailed in the novice division, Cataina topped the mountain bike division, and Babauta ruled the sports class.

Raul Dumapit claimed the Class A championship of the Saipan Filipino-American Lions Club Classified Bowling Tournament at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Dumapit won Class A after whipping Robert Talavera in the championship of the stepladder finals, 226-198. Talavera earlier advanced to the finals against veteran kegler Kitz Barja, 176-158.

Bernard Paraiso dominated Class B of the handicap-computed tournament, while McKenzie secured the championship in Class C.

Paraiso defeated Ronald Epan in the championship of the Class B finals by rolling a 231 against Epan's 169.

In the Class C finals, McKenzie pulled off a 223-220 win over Gloria Omechelang.

In baseball, Rock Steady started its title defense bid in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League with a 6-5 victory over the Ford Rangers at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The D-9ers joined Rock Steady in the win column after an impressive 13-3 triumph over 2007 champions the Tanapag Falcons.

Still at the "Tan Ko" Ballfield, the Patriots remained undefeated in three games in the Junior Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball.

The Patriots notched their third win via an 11-1 rout of the Fielders.

At the Tinian Municipal Gymnasium, Aqua Resort Club won the battle of unbeaten teams in the 2009 Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Invitational Basketball League, downing Hyatt Regency Saipan, 100-98.

Ziddy Johanes made a crucial steal and the game-winning basket in the closing seconds of the match to lift Aqua to a 3-0 record and hand Hyatt its first loss in three games.

In the second game, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino broke into the win column after posting a 105-92 triumph over Pacific Islands Club.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Class C champion Marion McKenzie is flanked by second placer Gloria Omechelang, left, and third placer Joven Abris during the awards ceremony for last week's Saipan Filipino-American Lions Club Classified Bowling Tournament at the Saipan Bowling Center.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Class B winners, from left, champion Bernard Paraiso, third placer Ron Cal, and Ronald Epan pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony for last week's Saipan Filipino-American Lions Club Classified Bowling Tournament at the Saipan Bowling Center.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Dolphins' Clayton Kenty, left, pulls up for a shot against the Ayuyus' Trevor Ogomoro during their title match in the MISO caging Friday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ, JR.

The Patriots' Brian Camacho scores during their game last week against the D9ers in the Junior Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Two Lady Ayuyus players pose with their championship trophy Friday night after they defeated the Lady Dolphins in the finals of the MISO caging at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MHS coach Mark McDonald doing the ceremonial cutting of the net after the Dolphins defeated the Kagman Ayuyus, 76-72, in the finals of the boys varsity division of the MISO caging Friday night.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

D9ers players exchange high fives after winning against the Tanapag Falcons in the second game of the 2009 season of the Budweiser Saipan Major League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ, JR.

Ogasawara Takahiro, winner of the Saipan stages of the 8th Annual Jazy Cup Tour De Marianas, is flanked by runner-up Bobby Mandapat, left, and third placer Butch Sublemente.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ, JR.

Race organizer Jazy Garcia and his wife Mylene pose for a photo before Stage 1 of the 8th Annual Jazy Cup Tour De Marianas kicks off.



Wade sparks huge Heat rally against Knicks

Wade scored 46 points, 15 of them coming in a dramatic 19-0 spurt that erased a huge deficit in the final nine minutes and carried the Miami Heat to a 120-115 win over the Knicks on Saturday night.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Dolphins, Lady Ayuyus top headlines

The biggest catch in last week's sports events in the CNMI was the conclusion of the 2008-2009 season of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Basketball League with Marianas High School and Kagman High School splitting titles.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Dolphins regain title in MISO caging



The MHS Dolphins celebrate their title win against Kagman in the boys varsity division of the MISO caging Friday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas High School reclaimed the boys varsity division title in the MISO Basketball League after eking out a 76-72 overtime win in its championship match against Kagman High School Friday night at the MHS Gymnasium.

Joseph Ada top-scored for

the Dolphins with 36 points. But it was MHS' Twin Towers Clayton Kenty and Noel Soria who gave the eventual champions a big lift in the exciting finale that took extra five minutes to finish.

The Ayuyus had chances to win the game in regulation and end their title drought, but they missed crucial free throws in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter.

See DOLPHINS on Page 26

Three-peat for Lady Ayuyus

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kagman High School's cagebells didn't mind losing to Marianas High School twice, as the Lady Ayuyus won in the game that counted the most—the championship match in the 2009 MISO Basketball League.

The Lady Ayuyus prevailed in their title rematch against the Lady Dolphins Friday night at the MHS Gymnasium, 56-47, giving the former their third straight championship.

A 15-5 windup in the last three minutes of the game allowed the Lady Ayuyus to beat the Lady Dolphins for the first time this season and keep their reign in the MISO girls varsity caging.

Mercedes Mesa, who traded heated words with Lalaine Pagarao in the early goings of the fourth period after getting



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Lady Ayuyus' Yvonne Bennett gets a piece of the net as a remembrance of their title conquest in the girls varsity division of the MISO caging.

tangled up in the shaded lane, vented her ire on the basket. She connected on two triples in the Ayuyus' 9-0 run in less than a minute, turning a 41-42 deficit to a 50-42 lead, going

See THREE on Page 26

Jets seize lead, Dragons win over Red Sox

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Jonathan Cabrera pitched nine strikeouts as the top-seeded

Dragons gored the Red Sox, 4-1, even as the Jets seized the solo lead in the Major Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball Association.

Cabrera also scored the Dragons' third run in the top of the first inning as they opened the match with a 3-0 lead on the way to the win, their second straight after dropping their first assignment to the UMDA Hustlers on opening day last Feb. 15.

The Dragons also won over the Tanapag Little Falcons, 7-4, last Feb. 22.

First baseman Nathan Camacho and centerfielder Jerald Cabrera scored the Dragons' first two runs on passed balls.

Jerald reached home plate



RELATED NEWS

Taco pitches 15 strikeouts for Falcons' win Page 26

anew on a single by catcher Jonathan Villagomez in the third to make it 4-0.

Centerfielder Jequinn Aguon made the Red Sox's lone run in the bottom of sixth on a single by Alex Monkeya, who advanced to second by a stolen base with one out into the inning.

After that, the Dragon's pitcher struck out the next two Red Sox batters, Nathan Sablan and Estan Cruz, for the win.

It was the Red Sox's second consecutive loss in three starts.

In the other games last Saturday, the Jets posted an easy 10-3 win

See JETS on Page 26

Jonathan Cabrera hurls one of his nine strikeouts in the Dragons' 4-1 win against the Red Sox in the Major Division of the Saipan Little League on Saturday.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

No Zone hits 7 homers past DLNR

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



In an offense-oriented match-up, No Zone posted the most home runs in a game this season hitting seven in its 26-15 victory over Department of Lands and Natural Resources Thursday night in the Budweiser Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League at the Capital Hill BallField.

Jerry Ayuyu went 5-for-6 at bat to score five runs that included three of his team's total seven homers. He also came up with eight RBIs and a double.

Nick Guerrero scored the most runs with his six on a 5-for-6 offensive performance that included a homer, five RBIs, two doubles, and a walk.

Ned Norita went 5-for-6 with three runs, a homer, and

three RBIs, while Bruce Norita finished with five RBIs, a homer, on his 2-for-5 stint.

Kent Kalen was also 2-for-5 with three runs, including a homer, two doubles, and a walk.

No Zone, which led from start to finish, piled up a total of 24 RBIs by hitting 26-for-48 at bat, including six doubles.

Pitcher Carl Hocog allowed 21 hits, 15 runs, three walks, and issued a strikeout as No Zone established a 20-13 lead after five full innings, scoring six more runs, three each in the sixth and seventh, while allowing DLNR only two in the sixth.

With the win, No Zone is now tied with Docomo at fourth to fifth places with similar 11-4 win-loss records.

DLNR remained in 12th place with its 6-9 card.

Paul Lisua scored DLNR's

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